Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-89-003
Thursday
5 January 1989

Daily Report
Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-89-003 *05 January 1989*

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Pact, NATO Representatives Meet in Vienna

LD0401135289 Moscow TASS in English 1340 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Vienna January 4 TASS—A regular meeting was held here today within the framework of consultations between representatives of the member-states of the Warsaw Treaty and North Atlantic Treaty Organisations on the elaboration of a mandate for future talks on conventional armed forces and armaments in Europe.

The two sides completed the coordination of organisational conditions for holding the talks and for ensuring their interrelationship with the process started in Helsinki.

Chemical Weapons Viewed on Conference Eve

LD0401133589 Moscow TASS in English 1315 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—"New political thinking opens up the prospect of eliminating all chemical weapon stockpiles and dismantling plants producing them", Oleg Nefyodov, vice-president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, has stated in a TASS interview on the eve of the Paris international conference for the strengthening of the 1925 protocol banning the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons.

Although the working out of a draft convention on the elimination of chemical weapons has not so far been finished, Soviet scientists have started studying the problem of the peaceful use of toxic agents, said Academician Nefyodov who is in charge of the whole range of chemical sciences at the academy. "We need a most effective and cheap method of processing existing highly toxic chemicals. The mort important thing is to rule out even the slightest danger for people, the natural environment, flora and fauna. This is a difficult scientific problem", he pointed out.

According to Academician Nefyodov, biologically active substances, monomers and tetracycline products can be obtained as a result of the peaceful use of chemical weapons' components. They could be used in agriculture, in the production of polymers and in other spheres.

"There is one more problem: How to use for peaceful purposes equipment and production capacities now used for the production of chemical weapons", Academician Nefyodov pointed out. In his opinion, it is mostly a technological problem. Academician Nefyodov believes that those production capacities could be used to render chemical weapons harmless after reconstruction and the creation of additional installations. "Tough safety standards used in the production of highly toxic agents brought about the development of automated production processes as well as the introduction of remote control over those processes and highly reliable equipment. The use of chemical weapons' components will naturally require similar conditions. This is why part of the equipment of the existing plants that produce chemical weapons can still be used", Academician Nefyodov said.

Correction to Akhromeyev Article on Restructuring

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Marshal Akhromeyev on Military Restructuring," published in the 9 December 1988 Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page 1: Sourceline: Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 6 Dec 88 pp 1,4 (correcting sourceline)

Gerasimov Briefing on Libyan Plane Downing, Vienna

'Indignation' in Moscow

LD0501134789 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1250 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow, 5 Jan (TASS)—"The fact that Washington's anti-Libyan campaign has taken the form of a direct armed clash over the Mediterranean, as a result of which two Libyan planes were shot down, has been received with indignation in Moscow. The threat of fresh conflict arises," Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate stated at a briefing here today.

If this is what certain U.S. circles are seeking, he said, then this kind of action, which is a display of political adventurism and state terrorism, may lead to serious consequences.

"One cannot agree that the United States, being a permanent member of the UN Security Council, takes upon itself the right to chastise or pardon one sovereign state or another that does not suit it, in this case Libya," the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman added. "Whatever the pretext, the use of force contradicts international law and runs counter to the efforts of the world community aimed at a search for political solutions to existing situations of conflict."

As justification for its threats against Libya, the United States refers to an alleged desire by Libya to begin production of chemical weapons. However, it has repeatedly been officially denied in Tripoli that Libya has any intentions to equip itself with such weapons. This position, recalled Gennadiy Gerasimov, was recently confirmed in a letter by the Libyan foreign minister addressed to the UN secretary general. Moreover, Libya intends to take an active part in the work of the upcoming international conference on chemical weapons in Paris.

"It is not too late to avert a further escalation of the confrontation in the southern Mediterranean, displaying prudence and the high sense of responsibility so necessary at this exceptionally important moment in the development of the international situation," stressed the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman.

He stated the Soviet representative at the UN Security Council has been instructed to facilitate in every way the discussion in the Security Council of the question raised there by Libya.

'Real' Possibility in Vienna

LD0501145989 Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—The Soviet Union believes there are real possibilities for concluding the Vienna meeting in the next few days, in particular on January 17-19 as is proposed by a number of countries, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry Gennadiy Gerasimov told a news briefing here on Thursday.

Positively assessing the revised draft of the final document of the Vienna meeting which has been recently proposed by neutral countries, the Soviet spokesman said that the document was largely based on the October 1988 draft which reflected the necessary balance of interests. "This draft is a sensible compromise between various positions of the involved states," Gennadiy Gerasimov said. "We see no insurmountable problems to a consensus on the final document and the mandate of the talks on conventional weapons."

The only unsolved issue on the mandate of talks on future conventional weapons in Europe involving the geographic zone, or to be more precise the parameters of a region on Turkish territory to be excluded from that zone, can be settled if Turkey and its NATO allies display a mroe realistic approach, the Soviet spokesman said.

The USSR does not understand the complications which certain countries are trying to create with regard to "further steps" after Vienna, Gennadiy Gerasimov continued. The programme for common European measures in the next three years reflects the dynamism of European policy, the demands of the Helsinki process, the principle of just geographic distribution of these measures which should be taken in account at CSCE and presuppose the involvement of Western and Eastern countries in the common European mechanism of cooperation.

"We are convinced that a humanitarian forum which we proposed to hold in Moscow in 1991 will mark a major step in developing the common European mechanism of cooperation as regards the 'human dimension of the CSCE'," Gennadiy Gerasimov said.

Officials Comment on CW Talks, Libyan 'Potential'

LD0501120689 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1110 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow, 5 Jan (TASS)—The conference to strengthen the 1925 Geneva protocol on banning the use of chemical weapons, due to open in Paris on 7 January, will become the first worldwide forum devoted to questions of limiting this type of weaponry, Nikita Smidovich, a USSR foreign ministry expert said when addressing a briefing on the subject "The Soviet position on the problem of banning chemical weapons," held at the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY here today.

The Soviet Union will address an appeal to the states participating in the forum to declare officially their desire to join the convention on banning chemical weapons, Nikita Smidovich said. The USSR also intends to propose urgent international investigations, carried out under the aegis of the UN secretary general, on each

possible case where chemical weapons are used. The USSR resolutely condemns any violations of the Geneva protocol. "We do not come out against any specific state, but we do come out against any use of chemical weapons or their proliferation," Nikita Smidovich said. He noted that nonproliferation of chemical weapons is an area of real cooperation between the superpowers. Thus, the USSR and the United States reached mutual understanding that measures taken on the national level should form the basis of the chemical weapons nonproliferation policy.

Another participant in the briefing, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Kuntsevich, deputy commander of the USSR Armed Forces Chemical Troops, termed the presence of U.S. forward-based chemical arms dumps in the FRG a serious violation of the balance of forces in Europe. "The USSR does not have stockpiles of chemical weapons outside its national borders, he said. The presence of the U.S. dumps of combat poisonous substances in Western Europe is a direct threat to the environment and the region's population. Any accident at these dumps could lead to contamination of considerable areas, not only on FRG territory, but also in France, the GDR, and Czechoslovakia, by highly toxic poisonous substances."

Replying to journalists' questions about Libya's potential to produce chemical weapons, Anatoliy Kuntsevich stated that in his view, Libya does not, in principle, have the production, economic, scientific, and technological potential at its disposal to produce poisonous substances for combat purposes.

Jamming of 3 Radio Station Broadcasts Stopped

LD0501120789 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—The Soviet Union has stopped jamming broadcasts of the radio stations "German Wave", "the Voice of Israel" and "Liberty". This follows the stopping of jamming of other Western radio broadcasts, the newspaper TRUD reported on Thursday.

"We will dismantle the outdated jamming stations and use the modern stations for broadcasting local, republican and regional programs", said Gennadiy Kudryavtsev, deputy communications minister, in a TRUD interview.

"The jamming stations were usually placed in the center of town, the electromagnetic radiation in adjacent areas exceeded the safety norms. This will be taken into account when reequipping the stations. The number of transmitters will be reduced in accordance with the new uses, thus the power of emissions will lessen. If it still exceeds the permissible level, the particular stations will be closed", added Kudryavtsev.

Foreign Ministry's Chaplin on Consular Conference

LD0401212689 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Another press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists was held in Moscow at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press center. Today it was devoted to the results of the conference of the USSR Foreign Ministry consular staff, which was held in Moscow recently. Comrade Chaplin, deputy foreign minister, spoke to journalists about the new trends in this work:

[Begin Chaplin recording] The fact must be noted that in the course of the lengthy period which preceeded restructuring, for a variety of reasons, a certain deformation of the principles of the functions and tasks of the consular services and a confusion of its priorities occurred. Consular offices abroad relaxed their attention to protecting the economic and legal interests of Soviet citizens and organizations. At times, the functions of economic administration and various kinds of technical questions occupied the chief part of their work.

The view which existed for many long years that all Soviet citizens who went abroad for various reasons were people who had committed antipatriotic deeds reduced the protection of their economic rights and social interests to purely formal functions. That is why the questions of the consular service of Soviet citizens abroad occupied a special place at the conference. It was emphasized that thorough and constant attention should be applied to this work.

It was stated that Soviet citizens abroad should be able to systematically obtain information about the domestic and foreign political activity of the Soviet state and be able to sense the attention and sympathy of Soviet missions abroad.

The need was stressed to protect more resolutely their rights and interests in their countries of residence, render them all-around assistance, and prevent discrimination against them.

Compatriots, of whom, according to available information, there are currently over 20 million residing abroad, have previously been virtually totally excluded from the sphere of our activity. Contacts with them have been sporadic. At best, they have been confined to providing them with merely general political and other information about our country. The consulates, as a rule, have not developed or maintained liaison with this category of emigrants from the Soviet Union. They have now started to turn to our country; they are showing great interest in restructuring; and they are ready to participate in its process. Many of them, even though they have gone abroad, have not severed links with their homeland. Our restructuring is opening the way home for them.

It was stated at the conference that the time has come to establish business contacts with compatriots' business firms and to make wider use of links via the union republics, krays, oblasts, and rayons of the USSR with corresponding administrative bodies in foreign countries, where significant groups of emigrants from our country are residing. [end recording]

Further on Staff Conference

LD0401153189 Moscow TASS in English 1456 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—Today's press conference here was on the results of the conference of the Soviet Foreign Ministry consular officials—a first such forum in the history of Soviet diplomacy. The conference was held on 27-28 December, 1988. Speaking at the press conference, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Chaplin said that the consular conference laid a special stress on the need to vigorously protect the rights and interests of Soviet nationals abroad, to assist them in social, every-day life, legal and other matters and not to allow discrimination against them.

The deputy foreign minister stressed the importance of practical steps to ensure a greater universality of international organisations, to enhance the role of the United Nations and its specialised agencies and to develop the all-European consular cooperation. The conference has re-affirmed, Chaplin said in this connection, that the developments under way in the world require new forms and approaches to work. By way of an example, Boris Chaplin cited the activities of the Soviet consular service during the liquidation of the consequences of the earthquake in Armenia and in the case of the takeover by terrorists of children and hijacking of the plane to Israel.

Questioned by newsmen, the chief of the Consular Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry Viktor Zelenov admitted that there were shortcomings in the work of the service he is in charge of. Among these he cited in the first place organisational difficulties, having to do with shortage of personnel. In Washington, for instance, certain difficulties have arisen because of the introduction by U.S. authorities of quota restrictions on the number of Soviet officials. The Soviet consular service, however, is trying to cope with the difficulties and there is already some progress there. While in previous years Soviet organisations received an average of around 40,000 visas, last year their number reached almost 100,000. Among the deficiencies Viktor Zelenov also cited the not infrequently low quality of training of Soviet consular workers and a shortage of computer equipment.

Viktor Reshetov, who is in charge of the directorate on humanitarian problems and human rights of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, answered a question concerning the prospects for holding a humanitarian conference in Moscow. He said that the Soviet side is considering holding the conference as a link in strengthening the relations with the European states, the United States and Canada and, indirectly, with all countries of the world. "We deem it natural that, following Paris and Copenhagen, such a conference be held in Moscow. We are not considering this proposal as some sort of a propaganda exercise but we rather link it with the process of democratisation, glasnost and perestroyka in the USSR. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Physicians Movement Message to Bush, Gorbachev

PM0501094789 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS correspondent report under the heading "Physicians' Appeal"]

[Text] The international physicians movement has long provided authoritative evidence that the use of nuclear weapons would lead to truly tragic, irreparable medical, biological, and ecological consequences. Now, in light of positive improvements in East-West relations and the first practical steps to reduce nuclear arsenals, it must be said that there is still a long way to go before the threat of a universal nuclear catastrophe is completely eliminated.

M.I. Kuzin, academician of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, talked about this in an interview with your TASS correspondent. This eminent Soviet surgeon talked about the decisions adopted by the executive committee of the international movement "International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War," of which he is cochairman. The executive committee sessions were held in December this year in the city of Boston (in the United States).

"Physicians have reason to believe," M.I. Kuzin emphasized, "that nuclear weapons can damage people's health and the purity of the environment, so to speak, by the very fact of their existence. That is why, on instructions from the executive committee, the cochairmen of the movement have sent a message to M.S. Gorbachev and G. Bush requesting that this commission be given all necessary information to assess the medical and ecological consequences of nuclear arms production and testing. The movement intends to send a similar appeal to the leaders of all countries which produce nuclear weapons."

Nonaligned Countries Submit Revised CSCE Draft

PM0501115489 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jan 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Draft Document"]

[Text] Vienna, 3 Jan—At the Vienna CSCE meeting the neutral and nonaligned countries have submitted a revised draft for the concluding document, setting forth the agreed understandings in the military-political, economic, ecological, and humanitarian spheres. It is envisaged that after the Vienna meeting, talks will begin in the Austrian capital between the 35 countries on confidence

and security building measures in Europe, simultaneously with talks between the 7 Warsaw Pact countries and 16 NATO countries on armed forces and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Export of Scarce Commodities Tightened as of 1 Feb
LD0501120989 Moscow TASS in English 1130 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—The recently adopted decision of the USSR Council of Ministers to regularise the exportation of some consumer goods was promoted by a desire to protect the interests of Soviet customers, Vitaliy Boyarov, first deputy head of the Central Board of State Customs Control under the USSR Council of Ministers, said today at a news conference given for Soviet and foreign journalists.

He said that the adoption of the decision had been preceded by a thorough analysis of the movement of goods across Soviet borders. It had revealed that goods which are most scarce on the domestic market and competitive on the external market are taken out of the Soviet Union in large amounts.

From February 1, this year, foreign tourists and persons arriving in the Soviet Union at private invitations may not take coffee, sturgeon and salmon caviar, television sets, refrigerators, washing and sewing machines, children's wear and shoes out of the USSR, Boyarov explained. A duty is also levied upon the exportation of some types of electronic and electro-technical appliances by such persons.

The decision does not apply to the employees of foreign missions in the USSR and to foreign specialists. But the previous procedure concerning them is supplemented by a ban on taking coffee and cavier out of the country and by a limit on the exportation of some goods.

"The Soviet Customs Board preliminary held consultations with the similar services of other socialist countries. They regarded our problems with understanding, and we appreciated their problems", Boyarov remarked.

"The introduction of limitations and bans on the exportation of some goods does not at all mean a toughening of customs control", he emphasised in conclusion. "Soviet customs regulations increasingly rely on the principles of trust".

United States & Canada

Turkatenko Cites Carlucci on U.S.-Libya Incident

LD0401211589 Moscow TASS in English 2044 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Washington January 4 TASS—by TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko: During a hastily arranged news conference in the Pentagon U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci has confirmed that American fighters based on the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennady fired air-to-air missiles at two Libyan jets and shot them down.

According to the Pentagon, the American aircraft were providing routine combat air patrol approximately 70 miles north of the northeastern Libyan coast and the Libyan aircraft were approaching "in a hostile manner." "We now consider this matter closed," the U.S. defence secretary stated.

He particularly emphasized that the American action "had no connection whatsoever with Libya's newly-constructed chemical facility." However, judging also by questions put to Carlucci at the news conference, this action is directly linked here with the U.S. Administration's plans, which were made public, to launch a strike at an enterprise under construction about 75 kilometers away from Tripoli, capital of Libya.

Administration officials argue that the facility is designed to produce chemical weapons, which gives rise to deep concern in the United States. The Libyan side has repeatedly stated that the plant would make pharmaceuticals and offered to let international experts inspect the enterprise. The United states, however, steadfastly turns down this proposal. Instead of this, the battle group of the U.S. Sixth Fleet led by the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy escorted by two cruisers, five frigates, two destroyers and several support ships with a 2,000-person Marine amphibious group, which is on station in the Mediterranean, is heading closer to Libyan shores.

One more battle group led by the latest aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt with an additional 4,000-person Marine group and accompanied by amphibious ships was also dispatched there. This armada is expected to arrive in the Mediterranean in the next week, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy said.

It is recalled here that the attack by U.S. bombers on Tripoli in April 1986 under the pretext of combatting terrorism, which caused numerous casualties among the civilian population, was also preceded by the U.S. Navy's missile attacks on two Libyan patrol boats in the Gulf of Sidra, which also allegedly threatened the U.S. Armada.

All this confirms the report broadcast by the CBS television network on January 2 that a plan to launch cruise missiles at Libya, to avoid American losses, has already been drawn up and its implementation is scheduled for the near term.

According to reports monitored in Washington, the action by the U.S. Navy fighters against the Libyan aircraft drew serious confern among U.S. NATO allies which insist on the need to avoid any use of military force and to seek settlement through talks. Several U.S. Congressmen also express anxiety. For instance, Stephen Solarz, member of the House of Representatives, said today that before taking unilateral actions Washington should clear out whether it will be supported by other countries. At the same time, Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, justified the actions by the U.S. Navy.

Press Deplores U.S. 'Threats' Against Libya

PM0401130189 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jan 89 First Edition p 3

[V. Vinogradov "Military-Political Commentary": "Threats Again..."]

[Text] Once again, the storm clouds are building up over the southern Mediterranean. The United States has sent a large naval squadron from Norfolk to that region, 13 ships including the latest nuclear aircraft carrier, the "Theodore Roosevelt." Several thousand Marines are aboard these ships. Although U.S. military spokesmen are trying to give the impression that the buildup of naval might in that region of the Mediterranean is "routine," there is no doubt that it has a direct bearing on the anti-Libyan campaign which the United States has been fueling so earnestly of late. French television Channel One, for example, pointed out in a commentary on the U.S. naval group being sent to the Mediterranean that the United States could try, while the present administration is still in office, to "carry out a strike against its long-standing enemy—Libyan leader M. al-Qadhdhafi."

This supposition has very substantial foundation. The barbarous U.S. Air Force attacks on Libyan cities carried out by the United States a few years ago [as published] are still fresh in the memory. Most of the victims of this air piracy were women, children, and old people. Washington undertook this act of brigandage on the pretext of "fighting terrorism." Now President R. Reagan says that the United States is elaborating plans together with its NATO allies to strike a blow against Libya, citing U.S. intelligence information to justify any possible aggressive actions. This information is supposed to show that the Libyans have built a large plant for manufacturing chemical weapons. So, while there is still time, Washington intends to destroy the "Libyan chemical threat in its embryonic stage."

But how far, one asks oneself, does this U.S. "information" correspond to the true state of affairs? From the very outset, Tripoli has decisively countered these accusations from Washington. For example, J.'A. al-Talhi, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, sent a special letter to the UN secretary general categorically rejecting Washington's groundless allegations that Libya "is on the verge of producing chemical weapons." He said that Libya has absolutely no intention of producing chemical weapons of any kind. At the same time, an official spokesman of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has confirmed his country's consent to the U.S. side's inspecting the plant in the population center of Al-Rabitah so that it can see for itself that the plant is engaged in civilian production. The United States has rejected Libya's offer, however. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, in announcing this the U.S. State Department cited the fact that such a check could prove ineffectual as the reason for rejecting the proposal. This is despite the fact that U.S. specialists themselves believe that it would be perfectly feasible to develop a procedure for such an inspection that would remove any cause for U.S. concern.

Washington clearly has no interest in establishing the real truth. All the United States needs is a pretext. The U.S. threats, the Qatar newspaper AL-ARAB has emphasized, are a pretext for aggression against a sovereign state. If the United States really wants to wage a struggle against the possessors of chemical weapons, this newspaper pointed out, first of all it should stop supplying these weapons to Israel, especially as the latter is using them against the Arabs. Incidentally, in just the past few days, according to the Cairo newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, Israeli armed forces have been conducting large-scale maneuvers in the Negev Desert in which one element has been to rehearse troop combat operations involving the use of chemical weapons. It seems that the U.S. actions against Libya could in fact be regarded as an attempt by Washington to persuade Tel Aviv that basically nothing has changed in their relationship since the start of the American-Palestinian dialogue.

Washington's current anti-Libyan campaign is clearly a reversion to the infamous "aircraft carrier policy," which the United States is in fact unwilling to abandon. The U.S. threats to resort to force are directed not simply against Libya but against the entire Arab world. They could have the most serious consequences for security in the Mediterranean region and are at variance with both the UN Charter and the detente which now characterizes international relations and is welcomed by all peoples. The clouds building up over the southern Mediterranean must be driven away.

Commentary on U.S. Relations With Libya

LD0401131389 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Now perhaps the most alarming international report: A big U.S. naval force is on its way to Libya's shores. It's led by the newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, "Theodore Roosevelt." Upon its arrival in the Mediterranean the American armada there will number more than 30 warships, including aircraft carriers, with thousands of marines aboard. The events have been much talked and argued about. Here is the view of Leonid Rassadin, who writes:

The current tense situation over Libya is in many ways reminiscent of the alarm in the spring of 1986. Then, as now, there was a massive American force in the region. Then, as now, threats emanating from Washington were heaped on Libya. Then, as now, the White House fabricated all kinds of lies about Libya's policy. Then, as now, the task was set to do away with the al-Qadhdhafi regime. The only difference is that 3 years ago the United States charged Libya with backing international terrorism and now it accuses Libya with preparing production of chemical weapons. In both instances the charges are baseless. Incidentally, the Libyan authorities have voiced readiness to accept international inspectors at a pharmaceutical plant under construction south of Tripoli. The enterprise has been outfitted with equipment to manufacture medicines exclusively. It's this facility that is planned to be attacked.

The Libyans, and not only they, are concerned over new threats by the United States. They still remember the tragic events of April 1986 when American planes made several raids into Libya. I was in that country at the time, Leonid Rassadin wrties. I'll never forget the ruins of a densely populated area of Tripoli. A rehabilitation center for the disabled in Ban Ghazi was damaged by a missile. Hospitalized children were injured.

Can something like this happen again? We believe such trouble will not take place again. We also believe that force or the threat to use force will not become a foreign instrument again.

Bessmertnykh, Matlock Discuss Vienna Meeting

LD0401194189 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1921 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, today received Jack Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR. Questions connected with the completion of the all-European meeting in Vienna and other international problems of mutual interest were discussed.

Analyst Views U.S. Energy Department Program

LD0401185689 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

The U.S. Department of Energy is planning intensive production of nuclear weapons in the 21st century and it has elaborated for the purpose a twenty-year plan to modernise the entire set of the relevant armaments enterprises.

The large-scale program provides, among other things, for replacement or modernisation of tritium-producing reactors and adoption of measures to prevent radioactive and chemical contamination of the areas where nuclear weapons are manufactured. The "Report-2010", prepared by the Department of Energy, says that the production of nuclear weapons and modernisation of old reactors over this period will require 250 billion dollars, which means that for the coming 22 years the United States will be spending on nuclear rearmament each year an average of one and a half times more than in the current fiscal year.

The "leakage" concerning the secret plans to build up the U.S. nuclear weapons potential took place on the eve of the discussion of the military budget for fiscal 1990 in the U.S. Congress, in the period of an acrimonious debate over the December peace initiatives of the Soviet Union, when some U.S. public figures demanded response measures on the part of the United States and NATO to reduce the level of military confrontation in the world.

Many Western analysts stress, among other things, that at the present time the United States has at least 2,000 strategic nuclear warheads more than the Soviet Union, and note that, should this edge be sacrificed by the United States as an act of good will, this would speed up the conclusion of a treaty on strategic offensive arms. Quite recently a group of prominent U.S. nuclear specialists came up with a proposal to conclude an agreement to discontinue the production of tritium—a major component of nuclear charges, which would lead to a gradual reduction in nuclear arsenals in the world in a natural way.

The "Report-2010" of the U.S. Department of Energy indicates that Washington intends to extend its concept of "compensation" of arms to be liquidated under the treaties not only to intermediate- and shorter-range nuclear systems but to strategic nuclear arms as well. The report says that nuclear weapons must remain a vital element of U.S. policy in the field of security in the unforeseeable future.

The program of the U.S. Department of Energy is not just another routine modernisation of technical means. In addition to whipping up the arms race, it also pursues many other malicious goals. The program also aims at undermining the talks on a complete ban on nuclear weapons tests, at creating new logjams in the way of an agreement on a 50 per cent cut in strategic nuclear arms, and at increasing mistrust between the USSR and the USA. It reflects the desire of the ultra-conservative quarters in the United States to reverse the present motion toward turning our planet into a more secure place for the life of people, the groundwork for which was laid almost three years ago when Mikhail Gorbachev presented a program to liquidate all nuclear weapons before this century is out.

Many hopeful developments have taken place in the world. The peoples have also experienced some disappointments. But the chief result, however, is that in the past three years the adherents of power politics have sustained many more defeats than they have scored victories. And this is a sign of the times.

Analyst Views U.S. Antisatellite Weapons

LD0301130089 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 3 TASS—By TASS military analyst Vladimir Chernyshov:

The Pentagon has decided to modernise its most powerful land-based chemical laser "miracle" so that it can be used against satellites, according to the NEW YORK TIMES.

These new weapons could be tested this year. Old satellites still in order or special objects launched into space will serve as targets during the tests.

The U.S. Department of Defence is trying to do a very dangerous thing: introduce military activities into space. Even American experts regard this type of weapons as offensive and aggressive and their deployment can increase the risk of outbreak of war because the laser threatens early-warning satellites that can detect a missile attack. In strategic terms, anti-satellite weapons are designed to "blind" and "dumbfound" the enemy and undermine his ability to retaliate.

It is common knowledge that nuclear retaliation greatly depends on early warning satellites that warn of a ballistic missile attack. Should the warning come too late, there might not be enough time to make a decision to retaliate or to launch missiles before they are destroyed. This means that the destruction of early warning satellites will enhance the effect of a surprise attack on nuclear arsenals and command and control centres.

Giving a green light to the development and testing of anti-satellite weapons, the U.S. threatens the process of building trust between East and West that has taken root and is gaining force.

The USSR announced a unilateral moratorium on its anti-satellite tests as early as 1982 and has since dutifully complied with its commitments. This moratorium is conditional on the U.S. refraining from testing its own anti-satellite weapons.

The U.S. leadership must give a serious response to Pentagon attempts to take the path of "Star Wars" and realise the graveness of such a step and their great responsibility before mankind.

State Department Official on USSR Cooperation

LD0401181389 Moscow TASS in English 1644 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—Now that the world is on the threshold of a new era in international relations, the need for new thinking in the policy by great powers increases particularly. Rigid political directives, outdated concepts and stereotypes should not be allowed to interfere with the development of new ways of the adjustment to profound changes taking place in the world. This is the opinion of Richard Solomon, director of the Policy Planning Staff of the U.S. Department of State. His article devoted to the state of and prospects for the development of relations between the USSR and the USA is carried by the latest issue of the journal INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Richard Solomon emphasizes that in the appraisal of new possible forms of Soviet-American cooperation it should be admitted that this will be a practical, cautious and gradual process. The USSR and the USA will remain rivals, their interests will be conflicting, the values and views of the Soviet and the American peoples will remain different. At the same time there is a real opportunity to strengthen confidence by establishing common interests and taking practical steps to solve concrete problems, he writes.

The American diplomat notes that alongside contacts in traditional areas, many new and difficult tasks emerged in the area of cooperation on a bilateral basis and with third countries to restrict and prevent the spread of highly technical up-to-date kinds of arms. There is also a need for cooperation in resolving such new problems posing threat to security as terrorism and international trafficking in narcotics. In this connection great powers will have to face a number of difficult matters such as measures to restrict international trade in arms and to introduce the most effective ways of verification of the absence of chemical weapons.

The Soviet Union and the United States bear a special responsibility for overcoming mutual differences so that competition between them should not degenerate into confrontation. Our purpose should be the striving to alter the direction of our rivalry and to reorient it at areas which pose less threat to our security and to find the ways of interaction for the sake of the creation of a new world to which we are advancing, Richard Solomon said.

Dubin Thanks Americans for New Year's Card

LD0401222589 Moscow TASS in English 2137 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Washington January 5 TASS—Yuriy Dubinin, USSR ambassador to the USA, conveyed words of gratitude of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, to the organizers and participants in the campaign for delivering a New Year's greeting card from Americans to the Soviet Union.

"Allow me to convey Mikhail Gorbachev's sincere gratitude for your warm words and wishes," says Yuiry Dubinin's message to James Lawlor, an Iowa businessman, who dreamed up a giant greeting card. "Mikhail Gorbachev appraises this action of Iowa public and business circles as another sign of the growing trust and mutual understanding between the Soviet and the American peoples. On its part, the Soviet Union is prepared to do its utmost to achieve this goal. I am pleased to convey Mikhail Gorbachev's wishes of happiness, prosperity and peace in the new year to all the Americans who made the initiative for this project and participated in its implementation."

The New Year's greeting card to the Soviet people created on Lawlor's initiative is really huge, 15 by four metres in size. The giant colourful card carries some 30,000 congratulatory inscriptions, drawings, photographs, sent from all over the USA. It carries signatures by prominent politicians, businessmen, artists, students, schoolpupils. The greeting card was manufactured free of charge by the Superior Specialities in Wisconsin and was taken on a tour through eight American cities by the Century Motor Freight Transport Company free of charge. It was arranged for Pan American to ferry the giant card gratis to the Soviet Union. James Lawlor, who thought up the greeting card, wished very much that it be displayed prominently in Moscow and his wish came true. The card will be displayed at the House of Friendship with Peoples of Foreign Countries situated in the centre of the Soviet capital.

China

Zhao Ziyang Notes Problems in Reform Process

PM0401155589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Zhao Zhiyang on Reforms in PRC"]

[Text] Beijing, 2 Jan—Tremendous changes have occurred in the 10 years that reform has been implemented in China. Society's productive forces have been developed, the country's economic potential has strengthened, and the people's standard of living has been boosted comparatively rapidly. Zhao Zhiyang, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, stated this when speaking at the traditional tea ceremony in the China People's Political Consultative Conference All-China Committee.

"The fact that at present we are trying in accordance with the situation in the country to find a path whereby we can show working people throughout the world the great attractive force of socialism," he continued, "is especially important."

China is a large country, so the implementation of reform in such a state is an extremely complex matter, he said. Many problems are still unsolved, among them the considerable rise in inflation. China will not achieve stable economic development owing to the rise in inflation. The CPC Central Committee and the government, Zhao Zhiyang pointed out, have made the need to reduce the level of inflation one of the most important tasks this year. The PRC is a socialist state and can develop only on the basis of stability.

With regard to implementation of the course of improving economic conditions and deepening reform, the CPC Central Committee general secretary stressed that the work "has only just begun. The effect that has been achieved must not be overestimated, this task is extremely complex." At the same time he stated: "It would be a mistake to think that the difficulties are causing waverings in the main course of implementing reform and the policy of broadening ties with the outside world. Denying socialism would be an even more serious mistake."

Marchuk Interviewed on Scientific Ties With PRC

OW0501083689 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Listeners, a delegation of the USSR Academy of Sciences, headed by the Academy President Marchuk, left for a visit to China several days ago. Please listen to what he had to say in an interview with a station reporter:

[Reporter] China proposed to Academician Marchuk [words indistinct]. Comrade president, you are going to visit China at the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. What is the main purpose of your visit?

[Marchuk] The main purpose of the visit by this very large delegation is to familiarize ourselves with the rich experience of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in developing natural sciences and technology. The Chinese Academy of Sciences is playing an increasingly larger role in China's modernization. Considering the extremely important roles played by the Chinese and Soviet Academies of Sciences in socialist construction, and in seeking to solve some of the questions concerning scientific and technological progress, we will exchange views with the leaders of the Chinese Academy of Sciences with respect to the expansion of cooperation, improvement of efficiency, and solution of long-standing problems. For this reason, we plan to sign documents on the basic policy of scientific cooperation between the academies of sciences of the two countries up to the year 2000, and an agreement on establishing direct contacts between the two academies of sciences.

[Reporter] Please tell us something about Soviet-Chinese relations in science and technology in recent years. What do you think about the present relations between scientific circles in the two countries?

[Marchuk] The two academies of sciences restored contacts in 1986. It was gratifying that an agreement on scientific cooperation and a 1987-1988 plan for cooperation were signed at that time. The plan has been successfully fulfilled. We have organized 62 joint projects on special topics in the fields of Russian language, mathematics, chemistry, and [words indistinct]. We have begun to increase exchanges between scientists and experts. Some of our research institutes have entered into direct scientific cooperation with Chinese research institutes. For instance, [words indistinct] joint scientific symposium. Such a scientific symposium will be held again in 1989. The academies of sciences of various republics of the USSR are establishing scientific cooperation with their counterparts in China's provinces and autonomous regions. For instance, we think that the scientific and technological cooperation agreement signed between the Uzbek Academy of Sciences and the Xinjiang branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences is a positive contribution. [words indistinct] we think that there are great possibilities for expanding the cooperation between the academies of sciences of the two countries. In signing the 1989-1990 scientific cooperation plan between the academies of sciences of the two countries we have seriously considered how to [words indistinct]. We will expand joint publishing activities and the exchange of information. How to further expand cooperation for mutual benefit will be the central topic in our talks with our Chinese counterparts during the visit.

[Announcer] Another question raised by the station reporters was: What do you think are the priorities and orientation of the Soviet-Chinese scientific and technological cooperation?

[Marchuk] This question cannot be answered in a few words. I have already mentioned that we have been engaged in joint projects on 62 problems, including all major aspects of basic research. The key questions of scientific and technological progress are how to accelerate scientific and technological progress, and how to raise the economy to a higher level. The whole world is studying these key questions. These questions involve electronics, computers, and [words indistinct].

[Reporter] The Chinese Academy of Sciences is composed of natural scientists and technicians, but historians, political researchers, and economists are attached to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. What can you say about the cooperation between the social scientists of the two countries?

[Marchuk] I don't think that there is any big problem here, because our Academy of Sciences has some social science organizations similar to those of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. We are looking forward to a visit to our country by a delegation headed by Professor Hu Sheng, president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and a well-known Chinese scientist, in the first half of next year [1989]. During preliminary consultations, the two sides agreed to expand cooperation in research into the theory and practice of socialist construction and in the exchange of information on the political and economic reforms in the two countries. An agreement has been reached on holding a symposium next year [1989] in the Soviet Union on questions concerning the economic reforms in the two countries. These are very important activities. We will also expand cooperation in philosophy and in research into general laws of culture and civilization.

[Announcer] The president of the USSR Academy of Sciences Marchuk expressed the belief that the visit to China by the USSR Academy of Sciences delegation, composed of important scientists of major natural sciences and directors of major research institutes, will be conducive to promoting cooperation between the two countries. We are very glad that the delegation of the USSR Academy of Sciences can visit China while we are preparing for the Soviet-Chinese summit meeting, because the summit meeting will be an important milestone in improving relations between the two countries and in promoting the long friendship between the Soviet and Chinese people.

Northeast Asia

Gerasimov Interviewed on Japanese Television

OW0401144689 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1226 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Interview with Gennadiy Gerasimov, USSR Government spokesman and chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Department, by newscaster Hirano; from "NHK News Today" program; date and place not given—recorded; interview conducted in English with Japanese translation in subtitles; the following is from the English]

[Text] [Video shows Gerasimov seated at an unidentified location with a picture of the Kremlin in the background, and Hirano seated at an NHK studio in Tokyo]

[Hirano] Sir, if you apply this new thinking to diplomacy, especially between the Soviet Union and Asia, particularly with Japan, how would you interpret this?

[Gerasimov] We translate this into action in our diplomacy. For instance, several years ago we had quarrels with many countries. We had suspicions all over the place. We were not on speaking terms here and there. And now we don't have enemies any more. We have political dialogue with the United States. We have relations improving with China. We have dialogue in Europe—how to construct an all-European home. We have our ideas on Asian security. Japan is a little bit late coming in our picture, so to say, but recently we had the visit of our foreign minister to your country, and now we are going to have a continuing dialogue between our ministers with the possibility of a Soviet-Japanese summit.

[Hirano] Well, why do you think that Japan is a little bit late to come?

[Gerasimov] Well, that is the question I must address to you. My view, it's my personal view, is that maybe Japan, which is a big industrial power, economic power No 2, is not, politically speaking, 100 percent independent. Somehow you just look at the United States.

[Hirano] Well, I thought you were saying that Japan is a little bit too late to come because there is a territorial problem between the two countries.

[Gerasimov] Not really. Of course, just now we have this mechanism for negotiating a peace treaty, and this was agreed upon in December during the meeting of Mr Shevardnadze in Tokyo, and during these negotiations—and we are going to have this process [sentence as heard]. Our ministers are going to meet again in Paris. I guess it's December 7—I'm sorry, January 7. Pretty soon. This will be a continuing dialogue, and we are going to discuss anything which any side can bring up. You can bring up anything, any topic.

[Hirano] Well, I see. Well, when you visited Japan the last time, I think 2 years ago, you mentioned that... [changes thought] you see that issue, territorial issue, was caused by the war. Do you still maintain that concept?

[Gerasimov] Well, this was the result of the war.

[Hirano] And you said that the border, international border, cannot be changed.

[Gerasimov] Well, I don't want now to discuss this because there is this mechanism which is now in place to be discussed at a proper level, which is below the ministerial level between your Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, if you wish to discuss this particular item.

[Hirano] I see. Well, when General Secretary Gorbachev sent Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to Tokyo last month, he sent a message to Prime Minister Takeshita, saying that his visit to Japan is already on his political agenda.

[Gerasimon] We would like to have this visit on his political agenda. Actually we don't now have the dates and, as to the date of this particular visit of Mr Gorbachev to your country, it will depend mainly on the progress our ministers are going to make. They are going to prepare this meeting.

[Hirano] After the Seoul Olympic games last year, the relations between the Soviet Union and South Korea have been going toward some kind of normalization. Is that what you are thinking of?

[Gerasimov] We do not have political or diplomatic relations with South Korea and we have no intention to have them. But South Korea is also one of the newcomers to the international economic market, so to say, so we cannot really ignore it. And so, on a nonpolitical, nondiplomatic, commercial level we are ready to develop relations with South Korea, too.

[Hirano] But your ally, North Korea, will not like it.

[Gerasimov] I guess they understand because our foreign minister, after he visited your country and then visited Manila, the Philippines, he went to Pyongyang and had talks there including talks with the Koreans, South... [corrects himself] North Korean leader Kim Il-song, and I guess we got this understanding.

[Hirano] Mr Gorbachev at the United Nations last December made a proposal, a unilateral proposal, to withdraw conventional arms from the Western Hemisphere and also from Asia. How many troops will be withdrawn from the Asian part of the Soviet Union?

[Gerasimov] It is going to be implemented in 2 years and we are going to cut our army, and cut our forces, by half a million men of our armed forces, too. And it will affect Asia, too. We are taking out troops from Mongolia and, I guess, also from the Far East. And the Soviet-Chinese border now is a very quiet border. We have negotiations on how to mark this border. It has been very quiet. So we don't need that many troops there now. The Chinese foreign minister visited Moscow last December after a very, very long interval and it's a good sign. And also we are talking about a Soviet-Japanese summit. We are also talking about a possible Soviet-Chinese summit. So maybe we are going to have several breakthroughs in Asia.

[Hirano] Okay, thank you very much, Mr Gerasimov.

[Gerasimov] Thank you.

[Hirano] Thank you.

Radio on Hopes for Better Ties With Japan
OW0401123489 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Dmitriyev commentary]

[Text] Soviet and U.S. leaders Gorbachev and Reagan exchanged New Year greetings, and Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita spoke about the significance of Japan's relations with both the United States and the Soviet Union in his New Year news conference. The three top leaders' remarks were marked by optimism, but I don't think that is only because they were made at the New Year.

Touching on the improvement of Soviet-U.S. relations, General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan in their messages emphasized, in general, various well-known facts. TOKYO SHIMBUN reports that in its review of the international situation in 1988 the Japanese Foreign Ministry also attaches importance to the trend of developing Soviet-U.S. dialogue.

Regarding Soviet-Japanese relations, for the time being we can speak of a drastic improvement only as a desirable objective. However, we can say that conditions are now being created for attaining this objective. In particular, we can say that this is the result of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's recent visit to Japan.

While expressing satisfaction with the recent foreign ministerial consultations in his New Year's news conference, Prime Minister Takeshita said: Because the atmosphere is favorable now, I sincerely hope that General Secretary Gorbachev's visit to Japan will be realized within this year. If his visit should materialize, we can consider it, even now, to be one of the major events in Soviet-Japanese relations, and even in overall international relations, this year.

The Soviet-Japanese summit talks will raise the level of dialogue between the two countries to the same level as that which exists between the Soviet Union and Japan's major allies in the Western bloc, and which will soon appear in relations between the Soviet Union and Japan's neighboring countries in the Far East. However, sufficient preparations must be made prior to these summit talks. The starting of such preparations can be regarded as one of the major achievements of Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's recent visit to Japan.

The joint communique which summarizes the outcome of the visit said that General Secretary Gorbachev will be prepared to visit Japan in the context of an overall improvement of Soviet-Japanese relations. In other words, for the purpose of promoting practical development in the bilateral relations in various fields and achieving a fruitful outcome in the top-level dialogue, certain foundations are necessary.

At his New Year's news conference, Prime Minister Takeshita expressed his intention to promote Japan's diplomacy with the Soviet Union in a positive way. We hope that his intention will create further flexibility in seeking ways to promote Japan's approach in handling existing problems as well as to expand cooperation based on mutual benefit. The Soviet Union believes that a foundation should be laid for maintaining a balance between national and regional interests of the two countries. Should relations between the Soviet Union and Japan develop in a favorable way in 1989, they will contribute to further easing international tensions.

Nevertheless, the biggest result in easing tensions this year will probably be the successful conclusion of the Soviet-U.S. talks on reducing strategic arms by 50 percent. In his New Year's message to the American people, General Secretary Gorbachev expressed his confidence that we can have a new mode of existence, that is, we can live on the basis of the principles of equality, fairness, trust, humanism, and cooperation in a broad range of fields.

On the occasion of the New Year, we would like to express our hope that these principles will also be established in the relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. And in conclusion, I want to wish all of you good health and prosperity on this New Year.

South Korea's No Tae-u on Socialist Bloc Ties

PM0401165589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "South Korean President on Ties With Socialist Countries"]

[Text] Tokyo, 30 Dec—In an interview for the Japanese newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN South Korean President No Tae-u has advocated the development of relations with the socialist countries.

"I believe," he said, "that in the future we will establish trade missions on a reciprocal basis in the USSR, the PRC, and East European countries as well, that economic and cultural ties with these states will widen, and that contacts between people will intensify."

Dwelling on relations with the PRC, No Tae-u pointed out that links and cooperation between South Korea and China in the economic sphere have been developing actively of late. But, he noted, relations between the two countries have not yet been normalized. In this connection, the president stressed that contacts between South Korea and the PRC are still at the initial stage and expressed the hope that cooperation will develop further. "It is in this context," No Tae-u said, "that I view the question of my visit to Beijing."

"In his Krasnoyarsk speech," the president noted, "M.S. Gorbachev indicated the possibility of economic links with South Korea. Our country's business circles are greatly interested in this question and our government would also like to approach it from active positions." No Tae-u expressed the view that the implementation of more intensive economic cooperation with the USSR, in particular in the development of Siberia, would be possible against the background of the easing of tension in Northeast Asia.

South Korean Company To Fish Off Kamchatka

SK0401084189 Seoul YONHAP in English 0815 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (YONHAP)—A South Korean fishing company recently gained Soviet approval to operate off the Kamchatka Peninsula beginning in February, business sources said Wednesday.

"Exploitation," a 26,830-ton-class factory ship of Korea Wonyang Fisheries Co. will begin participation in a joint fishery operation with the Soviet Union on Feb. 10 in the sea of Okhotsk, off Kamchatka, according to the sources.

It marks the first time that a Korean company will extend its business into the Soviet Union with which South Korea has no diplomatic ties.

On his fourth visit to the Soviet Union, Yi Hak-su, president of Korea Wonyang, signed a contract for joint fishing on Dec. 27 with Nikolay Nikichenko [name as received], director for fisheries in the littoral province of Siberia based in the Far Eastern seaport of Vladivostok, sources said.

The contract, signed in Moscow, was realized through the good offices of Mikhail Titarenko, director of the Institute for Far Eastern Affairs at the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the sources said, adding that Titarenko visited Korea in September.

Korea Wonyang will purchase Alaska pollack from Soviet ships in the sea area where foreign ships have been banned since March 1977 when the Soviet Union declared the area as its 200-mile economic sea zone.

Under the contract, the Korean ship will introduce into Korea or process on board 33 million U.S. dollars worth of Alaska pollack in exchange for repairs of the Soviet 18,000-ton-class factory ship "Spassk" operating from Vladivostok.

The pollack purchasing price will be 382 dollars per ton for pollack containing roe and 175 dollars for ones without roe, the sources said.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Biryukova, Delegation Depart for Cambodia

LD0401173889 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1638 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow 4 Jan (TASS)—A Soviet party and government delegation headed by Aleksandra Biryukova, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, left Moscow today for Cambodia to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Nikolay Talysin, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and other officials saw off the delegation at the airport.

Hor Nam Hong, Cambodian ambassador in the USSR, was among those seeing off the delegation.

Lao Leaders Send Thanks for Jubilee Greetings

PM0501090989 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 88 Second Edition p 1

[Lao leaders' message thanking USSR leadership bodies for greetings on anniversary of Lao People's Democratic Republic]

[Text] To the CPSU Central Committee

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The USSR Council of Ministers

Personally and on behalf of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly and Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and the multinational Lao people we express profound gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers, and the entire fraternal Soviet people for the warm congratulations and good wishes on the 13th anniversary of the proclamation of the LPDR.

We are firmly confident that the relations of friendship and all-around cooperation between Laos and the Soviet Union will continue to strengthen and develop in the spirit of the new thinking and restructuring in our countries, and in the interests of the Lao and Soviet peoples and of the cause of peace and socialism.

We wish the fraternal Soviet people great new successes in fulfilling the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th all-union party conference.

Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers

Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR

Sisomphon Lovansai, acting chairman of the LPDR Supreme People's Assembly.

Commentary Reviews Political Events in Burma

BK0501063389 Moscow in Burmese to Burma 1030 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Commentary by Soviet historian Dr Vasilyev]

[Text] Today marks the 41st anniversary of Burma's independence. This year's Independence Day is being observed by the Burmese people at a very complex and difficult time. The past year has been very violent and stormy, and the country went through events that can be described as sad and tragic. We particularly think about these events on the national day.

Dr Vasilyev, Soviet historian and observer of Burmese affairs, makes the following observations on what actually happened in Burma in 1988, what the causes were, and what lessons to draw from them.

It should be pointed out from the very beginning that opinions today regarding Burma are many and varied. Some people provide excuses to protect the Burma Socialist Program Party while blaming the opposition forces. On the other hand, some other people view U Ne Win's government as a complete loss and see only the good side of the opposition movement. These are opposing views, but I myself wish to propose another view that could perhaps be called a give-and-take approach. This is because I believe such an approach can best describe the true essence of the situation in Burma. The conclusion was derived from analyzing not only the events in Burma during the past year, but also Burmese history and the general trend in the world.

The events of 1988 emerged because of difficulties which had existed in the state apparatus. It is quite evident that the government that came to power in 1962 served Burma in some respects. However, that revolution of 1962 gradually fossilized, and dissatisfaction grew among the masses because they were divorced from the military men and the bureaucrats who belonged to the privileged class. The difficulties grew gradually because of different factors, but the causes were mainly economic. Signs that development had stalled became more evident, and the plight of the people, especially the urban people, became worse.

These difficulties became more apparent in political developments with the growing movement of opposition in Burma's politics, during 1988—an unprecedented and unparalleled event in 20th century Burma. This fact cannot be refuted.

I view this explosion of the struggle for democracy in Burma as being related to a general struggle for democratization of human society, which has taken place not

only in capitalist developed and developing countries, but also in socialist countries in recent years. It is tragic that an unprecedented number of people were killed during this struggle for democracy in Burma as it was gaining momentum. It could be pointed out here that the tide of the protest movement overflowed at one point. These movements sometimes take the form of extremism, with bloodshed, anarchic acts, and looting taking place.

By late August and early September, the opposition movement became heady with the success they had achieved, and let the opportunity for give and take with Dr Maung Maung's government slip by. The opportunity was lost at the point when that government agreed to hold multiparty general elections and to legally allow opposition political parties. As a result, there was renewed tension and disorder, with the military eventually taking over power by 18 September. I viewed this as a price the opposition had to pay for its inability to give decisive political leadership and to accurately evaluate and exploit the manifestations of political events.

The opposition in Burma is blaming the military government, which is taking strict measures to restore order, and international circles are holding their own views on the military government. It is only natural. At the same time, the opposition is making disheartening predictions on the holding of elections and the outcome of these elections. Only time can tell how the events will take shape. I do not think we should be giving pessimistic views at present.

It is a positive factor that the opposition movement in Burma has a broad base. Nobody can discount this factor. Despite the restrictions it imposes on the political parties, the military government continues with its efforts to make them legal. At the same time, the General Saw Maung government has openly pledged to hold multiparty general elections. The pledge was even made at the United Nations General Assembly.

It should be noted here that the Defense Forces had once, in 1960, held parliamentary elections in Burma, later resigning from their role as caretaker government. Although the situation today is slightly different, there are reasons to be hopeful.

Another important point is that all political forces should strive to reduce the prospects of confrontation with each other in the interests of the future of Burma. The holding of multiparty general elections after legal recognition of political parties should be regarded as a great and noble goal, which should be implemented without fail. It will not be successful without both parties making concessions, and both the opposition and the military government have the potential. After all, politics is the art of the impossible.

Like all other political struggles, the struggle for democracy is not a matter which can be achieved at one stroke. Such struggles can often take time. I believe that the Burmese people cannot afford not to hold broad political negotiations. I believe this is the most logical lesson for Burma, which is already tired and exhausted.

Australian Foreign Minister Discusses Relations

PM0401133589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report on interview with Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Gareth Evans: "Australia-USSR: Prospects And Possibilities"]

[Text] Canberra, 30 Dec—Soviet-Australian relations are developing successfully. Our two countries have considerable potential for further developing them.

This was stated with satisfaction by Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Gareth Evans in an interview for TASS special correspondents.

The number of agreements between our two countries, the minister pointed out, has increased from 3 to 12 and bilateral contacts have become more active at all levels. We view this as the result of positive and constructive initiatives on both sides, and also as part of a broader trend toward the easing of tension in the world. The "new thinking" in both USSR foreign policy affairs and USSR domestic policy affairs certainly played an important part in this process.

We believe this trend will persist in bilateral relations. At the same time, we must realistically recognize that Australia and the Soviet Union belong to different strategic alliances and have different political systems and views. This, of course, should not hinder the development of bilateral relations. But the improvement of these relations will continue to depend to a considerable extent on the continuation of detente in East-West relations.

Australia values the trade links it is developing with the Soviet Union. We believe we have considerable potential for further developing these relations. Prime Minister Hawke's visit to the USSR late last year was an important event in relations between Australia and the USSR. During the visit agreements were signed, along with a program for the development of trade and economic cooperation between Australia and the USSR in the 1988-1995 period. This year we have witnessed the further considerable development of trade links. Australia welcomed the visits by a number of senior Soviet ministers, including USSR Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman Vladimir Kamentsev, and an Australian trade delegation paid a familiarization visit to Moscow to ascertain the potential for arranging new forms of economic cooperation, including the setting up of joint enterprises.

This positive approach to relations between Australia and the USSR on the part of our governments and business circles in the two countries—and these relations

have been significantly developed since the prime minister's visit and the signing of the trade program—will, I am sure, raise the level of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

As for the range of complex issues raised by you in connection with problems of security in the Asian-Pacific region, I believe I should say at the outset that Australia sticks to the view expressed in 1987, that efforts to strengthen stability and security in the Asian-Pacific region should begin at the beginning. The principal task is the peaceful settlement of conflicts and the easing of tension, particularly in Cambodia and the Korean Peninsula. The voluntary expansion of openness with regard to military potentials and the strategies the forces rely on is of great importance. The USSR's efforts to improve its complicated relations with China and Japan are positive and important events. And, of course, we welcome the steps taken by the Soviet Union vis-a-vis Afghanistan and we look forward to the completion of the troop withdrawal in February 1989.

Australia believes that these trends are laying the requisite foundation for a productive study of the grander proposals put forward in Vladivostok and Krasnoyarsk. Incidentally, when talking about Australia's approaches to disarmament problems, you mentioned our stance on the use of outer space. It seems to me an explanation would be useful here. Australia attaches great importance to preventing the arms race from spreading to space. This presupposes banning armaments intended for the destruction of objects in space (whether deployed in space or on earth), and also confining the military use of space to tasks that contribute to safeguarding stability and monitoring the observance of arms control agreements.

In conclusion, permit me to dwell on the Rarotonga Treaty. Australia warmly welcomed the fact that the USSR signed and ratified Rarotonga Treaty protocols 2 and 3 without any reservations. As you know, other countries decided not to sign these protocols for the time being. But Australia firmly sticks to the view that the Rarotonga Treaty contributes to the defense and to the overall strengthening of favorable conditions in the southern part of the Pacific Ocean in the sphere of safeguarding security. Australia will continue to make efforts aimed at the complete observance and implementation of this treaty.

The next important event in our relations is the visit to Australia by USSR Council of Ministers Chairman Nikolay Ryzhkov. Both the prime minister and I are eagerly awaiting this opportunity to discuss with him these and other questions of mutual interest.

Near East & South Asia

Reportage on U.S. Downing of Two Libyan Planes

Shooting, Naval Squadron Reported

LD0401133489 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1313 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Washington, 4 Jan (TASS)—A Pentagon spokesperson has announced that F-14 fighters from the aircraft carrier "John Kennedy" shot down two Libyan fighter aircraft over the Mediterranean today, AP agency reports. According to the spokesperson of the U.S. Defense Department, the armed clash took place in the central part of the Mediterranean over international waters. The Pentagon spokesperson gave no further details of the incident.

A few days ago a naval squadron consisting of 12 ships headed by the latest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the "Theodore Roosevelt," was deployed to the Mediterranean area.

On board this aircraft carrier there were 100 military aircraft. The squadron is accompanied by five assault craft. On board are 4,100 Marines, including 2,000 servicemen from elite assault units.

Two years ago, in 1986, U.S. planes bombed the Libyan capital, as a result of which peaceful inhabitants, women and children, were killed.

Libyan News Agency JANA Cited

LD0401164289 Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli January 4 TASS—U.S. fighter planes attacked and shot down two Libyan aircraft, which were making routine reconnaissance flights over international waters in the Mediterranean, at 11:00 a.m. local time today, the Libyan JANA news agency said, quoting a statement of the people's bureau for external relations.

The U.S. fighters had taken off from the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy.

JANA said the people's bureau instructed Libya's permanent representative at the United Nations to lodge an "urgent complaint" with the Security Council over the "aggression perpetrated by the United States against two Libyan reconnaissance planes and to demand an urgent Security Council meeting to discuss the aggression".

Action 'Blunt Challenge' to World

LD0401165089 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Oleg Grekov commentary: A Blunt Challenge to the International Community]

[Text] Fears that developments would take their present shape did not first appear yesterday, but the world hoped, despite everything, that a sound mind would triumph over the inclinations of political adventurers. Yesterday and this morning the press of the various countries warned against any U.S. provocations against the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Many influential international organizations, including the Arab League, the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement, raised their voices high. The great majority of the countries of the world made it clear to Washington the inadmissibility of even making threats, let alone the threat of using force against a

sovereign UN member. Vatican radio yesterday pointed to the possible grave effects of the latest U.S. actions. Regrettably, the effects emerged sooner. The Pentagon measure today bears witness to this.

These U.S. actions cannot be seen other than as a challenge to world public opinion, and as another indication that the United States still intends to wager on force today when solving this or that disputed matter. Washington did not succeed during its recent anti-Libyan campaign in convincing its close allies, let alone others, that its pretexts are well founded, keeping in mind that there were no pretexts, because the United States did not mention anything at all to prove Libyan production of chemical weapons. The United States, when it began to wage its anti-Libyan campaign, believed, so it seems, that the West would believe it without proof, as was the case in the past. However, it made a mistake, because the campaign has failed. Today when Washington took military action against two Libyan aircraft it sneezed at its role as a superpower and permanent member of the Security Council. It is supposed to do all it can to secure the natural development of the course of relaxation of international tensions. Further, we can say certainly, without going deep into the essence of the conflict that took place, that today's measure by the U.S. Administration will not help the accomplishment of a peaceful solution to regional conflicts, particularly in the Middle East.

Arab League Condemns Shooting

LD0401202589 Moscow TASS In English 2009 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis January 4 TASS—The destruction of two Libyan planes by U.S. fighter planes over international waters is an aggression fraught with extremely dangerous consequences, says a statement by Chadli Klibi, secretary- general of the League of Arab States, circulated here. This new act of aggression impedes peace efforts in the Middle East and is a glaring violation of the United Nations Charter and of the obligations assumed by permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the statement says.

Arab states which reiterated complete solidarity with Libya in the face of U.S. threats demand that Washington end acts of aggression and provocative steps off the Libyan coast. Arab countries warn the USA against any attempt at the escalation of the confrontation with a member of the League of Arab States, which might have most unfavourable consequences for Arab-American relations, the secretary-general of the League of Arab States emphasizes.

Security Council Consultations Held

LD0501063989 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The UN Security Council will conduct consultations today in connection with Libya's request for it to be convened immediately.

Yesterday U.S. fighter aircraft shot down two Libyan military aircraft over international waters in the Mediterranean.

At a press conference in the Pentagon, U.S. Defense Secretary Carlucci claimed that the U.S. pilots' actions were justified inasmuch as the Libyan aircraft were approaching them in a threatening manner. At the same time, the secretary denied any link between this action and the United States's intentions vis a vis the Libyan chemical works.

Chemical Plant, Background to Shooting Reported

Expert Says Plant Not for Weapons

LD0501164689 Moscow World Service in English 1510 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Our correspondent has asked an expert in chemical weapons from the Soviet Defense Ministry, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Kuntsevich, to express his views on the anti-Libyan campaign unleashed by the United States.

[Kuntsevich recording in Russian heard in background] The U.S. claims that Libya has a plant which produces chemical weapons are absolutely ungrounded. They pursue largely propagandistic goals, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Kuntsevich said. He is confident that even American specialists in chemical weapons realize that Libya has no potential of chemical combat to speak of. Washington's current conflict with Libya is aimed, to all intents and purposes, at aggravating tensions in that part of the world.

As for the plant located several kilometers from the Libyan capital Tripoli, military specialist Anatoiy Kuntsevich thinks that it is incapable of producing combat chemicals in quantities sufficient for use in real military actions. As for the plant in question, it is designed to produce pharmaceutical products, and it cannot be used in the production of chemical weapons. The Libyan leaders have suggested more than once that this should be ascertained on the spot.

Anatoly Kuntsevich went on to say that even if Libya engaged in producing chemical weapons, as a sovereign country it would have the right to do so. Unfortunately, no international agreement banning the production of chemical weapons has so far been signed. The existing international protocol only prohibits their use in military actions. That is why the Soviet Union has always sought to conclude an international convention on banning the production of all types of chemical weapons.

Spokesman Condemns U.S. 'Threats'

LD0401151989 Moscow TASS in English 1513 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—The United States' threats to use force against Libya draws at least surprise. Such intentions not tally [as received] either with international law standards or with those positive processes which dominate in the international arena now, Yuriy Gremitskykh, first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, said at a news conference here today.

Responding to journalists' questions, he stressed that the Libyan side had repeatedly refuted the charges of plans to produce chemical weapons and involvement in the Boeing explosion over Scotland. The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman recalled that Libyan leader al-Qadhdhafi proposed to representatives of the diplomatic corps and foreign newsmen visiting the facility which draws Washington's suspicion.

It is perfectly obvious that the threats against Libya are discordant with the current hopeful tendencies for the departure from military confrontation in the Middle East, Gremitskykh said. It evidently goes against the grain with someone that there opened here, including thanks to the beginning of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, a real prospect for moving off dead centre the process of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"In the obtaining conditions any unprovoked action, from wherever it may emanate, would be a serious blow to the cause of improving the international climate and would undoubtedly be met with condemnation by the world community, including the Soviet Union," Gremitskykh stated.

U.S. 'Agressive Intentions' Cited

LD0401193789 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Commentary by Viktor Levin]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] You already know, comrade radio listeners, that the United States has sent an entire armada of ships toward the Libyan shores. In Washington they are not making a secret of intentions to inflict a strike on the Libyan chemical factory at which, as is asserted in the U.S. capital, poisonous substances are being manufactured. Libya categorically rejects these assertions and has even proposed the holding of an international inspection at the works. In Washington they have answered that such an inspection will produce nothing and they have continued a course for increasing tension. In light of all these facts the strike on two Libyan fighters can in no way be regarded as a private incident. It would appear that the United States is starting to implement its aggressive intentions. [passage omitted]

Iranian Delegation Received by Gorbachev, Others

Gorbachev Receives Khomeyni Envoy

PM0501113589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 89 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "M.S. Gorbachev Receives Javadi Amoli"]

[Text] On 4 January M.S. Gorbachev received in the Kremlin Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, the personal representative of Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Javadi Amoli conveyed to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev a message from Imam Khomeyni.

Greeting the representative of Iran, Comrade Gorbachev said that the sending to Moscow of an authoritative envoy is a good sign in the development of Soviet-Iranian relations, which are traditional and rooted back through the ages. Geography and history have determined things so that the USSR and Iran, one might say, are fated to live peacefully, and to cooperate in a good-neighborly way.

Outlining the philosophy behind our approach to contemporary international relations, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed: Our principled credo is the right of each people to be master of their own destiny. We relate with respect to the choice the Iranian people have made, and wish them good and prosperity. The fact that we are different and hold different political and ideological principles and traditions is far from an impediment to the development of mutually advantageous Soviet-Iranian relations, or to giving new qualities to them. Now, when Iran is entering a period of peace, favorable opportunities are opening up for political dialogue, for an exchange of opinions on questions of Soviet-Iranian relations, and on major problems in world politics. Among the things under analysis is the assertion of the universal values to which we adhere.

Javadi Amoli said that now there are good perspectives for discussing the questions which interest Iran and the Soviet Union. He noted the interest of the Iranian leadership in the development of relations of good-neighborliness with the Soviet Union. The message from Imam Khomeyni to the Soviet leader, his first personal message to the head of another state, is evidence of [Khomeyni's] respect for the Soviet Union and of a desire for dialogue between the leaders of the two countries. Javadi Amoli expressed gratitude for the attention and the hospitality afforded the Iranian representatives while in the USSR. Concluding the conversation, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev conveyed to the Iranian people and to Imam Khomeyni and the Iranian Leadership good wishes.

Also participating in the meeting were Comrade Yakovlev, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and Comrade Bessmertnykh, first deputy USSR foreign

minister; and on the Iranian side Larijani, deputy foreign minister of Iran; Mrs Habibchi Dabbagh, a deputy of the parliament; and Heirani-Nobari, the ambassador of Iran to the USSR.

Khomeyni Envoy Leaves for Tehran

LD0401122589 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1215 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan—(TASS)—Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, personal representative of Imam R.M. Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Moscow today for Tehran.

Bessmertnykh Receives Larajani

LD0301183089 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1820 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 3 TASS—Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, and Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister of Iran, today discussed issues pertaining to the present state of Soviet-Iranian relations and their prospects, and also the Iran-Iraq political settlement. The Soviet diplomat received the Iranian colleague at the latter's request.

Meeting Opens 'Serious Dialogue'

LD0401183689 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1658 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—Our frank meetings in Moscow were the beginning of a serious political dialogue between Iran and the Soviet Union. We hope this dialogue will continue, declared Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was accompanying Ayatollah Javadi Amoli who was here 3-4 January as the personal representative of Imam Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iranian delegation flew home today.

At present, Mohammad Javad Larijani told TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov before leaving Moscow, we are witnesses of serious changes in bilateral relations, and economic contacts are developing. The main impediments on the path to improving bilateral relations have now been eliminated. We are reckoning on cooperation with the Soviet Union in the cause of establishing peace and security in our region, stressed the Iranian diplomat.

The decision about the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was an extremely rational step of the Soviet leadership, noted the Iranian deputy foreign minister. He gave a positive evaluation to the contacts of Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy USSR foreign minister, with representatives of the Afghan opposition, which are called upon to promote a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Commentary on Status of Leftist Parties in Iran

NC0401143589 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persianto Iran 1530 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] A seminar was held at Tehran University on issues pertaining to implementation of the political parties' law. The seminar was attended by university staff and students, Deputy Interior Minister Dr Mohammad Sadr, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdol-Vahid Musavi-Lari, and Majlis Deputy Mohammad Asgharzadeh. The students asked the officials numerous questions, and each question expressed a hidden fear. Would the implementation of this law culminate in democratizing the country, or would the antidemocratic policy of restricting and suppressing rights and freedoms be maintained and arrests, torture, and executions continue? [passage omitted]

The government representatives strove to inspire some credibility among the students regarding the regime's sincerity in its desire for reconstruction in Iran's political life. Dr Mohammad Sadr insisted on the need to preserve an open atmosphere for the nation to express its wishes. Mohammad Asgharzadeh was of the opinion that a system based on a multiplicity of political parties would help maintain a healthy society and the people's awareness. Musavi-Lari, [word indistinct] deputy of the Majlis, even announced that, in the framework of the new political system, it was not compulsory that the parties should hold views conforming with those of the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In brief, the claims of the deputies and officials on democratization were adequately clarified.

However, the possibility of parties existing which hold communist views became the litmus test in the officials' approach and attitude to democratization. [words indistinct] Musavi-Lari, the proponent of tolerance to conflicting views, said: Such parties and organizations have no right to exist. True, he had stressed that Iranian authorities will not prosecute individuals merely for holding communist beliefs. However, the (?deputies) in the Majlis term this statement a discordant effort for the [words indistinct] the antidemocratic bias of the political parties' law and overt [words indistinct].

Who does not know that, in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the activities of the Iranian Tudeh Party have been banned since 1983. Other leftist parties and organizations have been suppressed as well. Numerous members and supporters of these parties and organizations have been arrested, and some have been executed after merciless torture. Individuals who have not hesitated to sacrifice their lives and existence for the struggle toward the country's social progress have been termed foreign spies. [passage omitted]

During the course of deliberations at the Tehran University seminar, the social and political tilt of the decision-makers and supporters of the political parties' law was

completely revealed. They did not emerge successful from the test of democracy. As in the past, they displayed a lack of tolerance for political views which are different, and even for organizations which are proof of the democratic leanings of the masses of the nation. It appears that the aim of this law is merely to incite competition among specific groups and individuals in professing sentiments of loyalty and [word indistinct].

In the opinion of observers, a system based on some political parties can hardly succeed or help in surmounting the indifference and stagnation in the country's political life, especially since the poliical parties' law was formulated specifically for conquering these problems. It must be noted that only total abstention from political discrimination, extensive and nonprejudicial amnesty of the political prisoners, and providing all facilities to the masses for their participation in an active political life can deliver the country from this crucial situation!

Vorontsov in Pakistan For Talks on Afghan War

LD0401230289 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Talks have got under way in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, between the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, ambassador to Kabul, Yuliy Vorontsov and Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

The talks are part of Yuliy Vorontsov's series aimed at facilitating an early end to the war in Afghanistan. The Soviet deputy minister said he does not rule out continued negotiations with the leaders of the Pakistani-based Peshawar seven alliance of the Afghan armed opposition.

He held his first meeting with an alliance team in Saudi Arabia in early December.

Yuliy Vorontsov came to Pakistan from Iran where he held a conversation with the locally based Afghan opposition leaders on the future of Afghanistan and a broad-based government for the country.

Vorontsov Speaks of Mission's Goal

LD0401121289 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1126 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, 4 Jan (TASS)—Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, arrived here today for a 3-day visit.

Addressing journalists at Islamabad Airport, the Soviet representative said that the goal of his visit is to discuss a solution of the Afghan problem with the Pakistani leadership. He is to meet the Pakistani president and the prime minister, and is also to hold talks on this matter with the country's minister of foreign affairs. Yu.M. Vorontsov noted that he does not exclude the possibility of continuing talks with leaders of the Pakistani-based armed Afghan opposition if they are prepared for that. The USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs expressed his regret over the fact that the leadership of the "Alliance of Seven" has not yet accepted the proposal for a cease-fire in Afghanistan, thereby fostering the continued killing of their own compatriots. "They are waging war, not against Soviet troops, but against the Afghans. Those who do not observe the cease-fire hope that the war in Afghanistan will continue," he stressed.

Replying to questions about his trip to Iran, Yu.M. Vorontsov said that the future of Afghanistan was discussed at his meetings with the leaders of the Afghan armed opposition there, particularly the question of creating a broadly representative government. He noted that the Soviet Union does not intend use of this to interfere in the process of creating a new regime in Afghanistan, but is merely studying the views and intentions of representatives of various strata of Afghan society in order to be able to assist them.

The Soviet representative did not agree with the premise that the multilateral contacts which the USSR recently had on the Afghan problem were introducing a split into the ranks of the armed opposition. "On the contrary, we are attempting to unite it in a widely representative government," he pointed out.

Regarding his meetings with Zahir Shah, Yu.M. Vorontsov said that the former king of Afghanistan was a figure of authority for some of the mujahedin, refugees, and Afghans living within the country and for that reason the USSR believed it important to know his point of view and intentions.

The Soviet representative expressed his total confidence that the current Afghan Government was capable of standing its ground. At the same time, he stressed the Afghan Government's aspiration to take part in the creation of a broadly based government and he described this circumstance as very important.

Malikov Comments on Vorontsov Visit

LD0401215889 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] TASS has reported the arrival in Pakistan on 4 January of Comrade Vorontsov, first deputy USSR foreign minister and USSR ambassador in Afghanistan. The purpose of his visit is to hold talks with Islamabad officials and representatives of the Afghan opposition forces, if they are ready for that. One of the main subjects of the talks is the prospects for the formation in Afghanistan of a coalition government on a broad basis. Here is a commentary on the latest news by Aleksandr Malikov:

[Malikov] The Soviet diplomat, having flown into Islamabad, told reporters that he considers the upcoming round of talks deciding. Avoiding any forecasts, I will nevertheless note that Comrade Vorontsov's talks are taking place at a moment which is, probably, particularly responsible. On the one hand, 15 February is approaching, the date when the last Soviet soldiers are to leave

Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva accords. And, on the other hand, Pakistan and the United States, the second guarantor of the Geneva package, have up to now done nothing to fulfil their part of the obligations accepted 14 April of last year in Geneva.

The result is palpable. The spring of the civil war is being further compressed. It is clear that this cannot lead to anything other than fresh casualties. Moreover, the erosion of the Geneva accords automatically disturbs the trust, and without that it is difficult to come to agreement on anything. And it is essential to agree: otherwise, there will be no peace after all. This is why the talks by Comrade Vorontsov are now acquiring a truly decisive significance. It must be understood that even our will for initiative and desire to find grounds for a compromise that is common to all also have bounds.

I personally am somewhat wary of the statement made a few days ago by Benazir Bhutto, the new Pakistani prime minister, that she will keep continuity with the former course of Afghan events. The old recipes of the Pakistani generals are obviously inappropriate here. A fresh breeze is needed, and it can be brought in solely by flexibility and responsibility. After all, even in the Afghan opposition camp, for instance, as was shown by Comrade Vorontsov's talks in Iran, the realization is coming that blind hostility and rejection of all proposals from the other side is not a serious platform for a peace quest. In this sense, the Iranian opposition eight, unlike the Peshawar seven in Pakistan, hold a more constructive and, I would say, more farsighted position by not excluding the perspective of a coalition on a most broad basis and by speaking out for a future Afghanistan, which is traditionally friendly toward our country. We are now working together with Pakistan and Iran to end the civil war in Afghanistan, Comrade Vorontsov told journalists at Islamabad Airport.

Although it has begun, this work is far from being complete. While not falling into euphoria, I think it is nonetheless natural to desire that this work justify the hopes and efforts of all who genuinely want the return of peace to Afghan soil.

Vorontsov Meets President

LD0501130589 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1242 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, 5 Jan (TASS)—Today a meeting took place here between Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan. During the conversation particular attention was devoted to questions of an Afghan settlement. The sides also discussed the condition and perspectives for Soviet- Pakistani relations.

Shift in Pakistan's Afghan Policy Viewed

PM0401151289 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jan 89 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent O. Kitsenko report: "A Trend Toward Realism: Pakistan's Problems and the Afghan Settlement"]

[Text] Islamabad, Delhi, January—The transition from the military dictatorship regime to civilian rule in Pakistan raised very urgently the question of the new leadership's policy on Afghanistan. Your correspondent, being in Pakistan during these decisive days for the country's fate, was able to see for himself what enormous significance the msot diverse circles attach to the resolution of the Afghan problem. "Afghanistan and relations with the Soviet Union hold the main place on the list of urgent foreign policy problems to which the new prime minister should devote attention," commentator Altaf A. Shanikh [as transliterated] wrote in the newspaper NATION. The same was said by many prominent journalists and politicians with whom I met.

"The outcome of the parliamentary elections showed that our people want changes in policy with regard to Afghanistan," I was told by retired Marshal of Aviation Asghar Khan, president of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal party, immediately after the ceremony to inaugurate Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. "No one and nothing must hamper a settlement."

My interlocutors invariably drew attention to the fact that political figures belonging to parties that actively supported the Afghan policy of those formerly in power suffered defeat at the recent parliamentary elections.

The people's attitude to the military regime's Afghan policy is not at all hard to explain, I was told by a veteran of the liberation struggle against colonialism, Abdul Wali Khan, chairman of the Awami National Party. That policy was a heavy burden on the people's shoulders and caused complex economic, political, social, moral, and other problems. The ruling clique of the mujahedin has big money. They tried to use it to influence the outcome of the recent parliamentary elections, and in many places they themselves unlawfully took part in the voting. They flooded the country with weapons. The drug trade has assumed a disastrous scale. Even according to official statistics, there are now 700,000 drug addicts in the country.

In many regions the mujahedin are creating an atmosphere of lawlessness and disturbances, and are provoking clashes with the local poulation. This happens particularly frequently in the North West Frontier and its capital Peshawar, where their camps are concentrated. Even in Karachi, which is a long way from Peshawar, the mujahedin have more than once caused bloody clashes. On the eve of the parliamentary elections the authorities set up 350 strong points in the northern districts of that

city, so as to prevent disturbances. I saw these posts at the street intersections, looking like pillboxes with large-caliber guns protruding from the embrasures.

It is no wonder that Prime Minister B. Bhutto's failure to mention the Afghanistan problem in her address to the people on inauguration day led to concern and misunderstandings. In this connection, at a press conference the following day she made a statement on the continuity of policy with regard to Afghanistan, which also led to different interpretations. It is obvious to everyone in Pakistan that the Zia ul-Haq government's policy, which was in harmony with the American administration's course in the region, led to the prolongation of the Afghan crisis and exacerbated its grave consequences for Pakistan's economy. This policy, many of my Pakistani interlocutors think, was dictated by the self-seeking interests of certain top Pakistani military circles. It helped them hold onto power in the country and grow rich on American military and economic aid.

After the conclusion of the Geneva agreements, Wali Khan says, Zia ul-Haq did everything to escalate military operations by the armed Afghan opposition. He set it the task of seizing major Afghan cities with the aim of bringing about the speedy overthrow of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan and bringing Afghan Islamic fundamentalists to power in Kabul. Considerably more weapons than before began to be sent into Afghanistan. Basically the Pakistani military were preparing the mujahedin's operations.

Pakistani political circles believe that the Zia ul-Haq regime's policy on Afghanistan has outlived its usefulness. The formula on the "continuity" of Afghan policy put forward by B. Bhutto, as well as the negative attitude to the holding of the international conference proposed by Kabul on the neutralization and demilitarization of Afghanistan, is, in many people's opinion, the consequence of a compromise between the head of government and military and other influential circles, which determined the coming to power of the Pakistani People's Party, which she heads and which did not have an overall majority in the country's parliament. At present, they explained, no party can disregard the position of the military, or of the United States, on whose aid both the Army and the country as a whole depend in many ways.

"At the same time," the well known Pakistani political commentator Ayaz Amir told me, "our country's Afghan policy cannot be what it was before. 'Continuity' does not necessarily mean it is identical. The Pakistani People's Party does not have the messianic approach to the problem that characterized Zia's policy. Look at B. Bhutto's words to the effect that a representative government expressing everyone's interests must be created in Afghanistan. But something else must also be borne in mind. No government in Pakistan can accept the fact of the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Therefore everyone in our country welcomes the withdrawal of Soviet troops and awaits its completion. We are convinced that this will help to improve relations with the Soviet Union."

This view was also expressed by Prime Minister B. Bhutto, speaking at a press conference: "As the Soviet troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan, we expect our relations with our great neighbor to improve," she said.

My meetings in Pakistan left me with the impression that an increasingly realistic approach to the Afghan problem is taking shape in all circles, even the most conservative. There is a growing awareness that the resolution of this problem on an anti-Soviet basis is impossible. It is necessary to create conditions, Sh.M. Bashir, secretary of the Punjab organization of the Pakistan Muslim League (a conservative force in the country's political arena), says, which will make it possible to form in Afghanistan a government acceptable to all parties, including its neighbors—the Soviet Union, China, Iran, and us.

All my interlocutors, without exception, assessed highly the foreign policy initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union in recent years. These initiatives, they said, paved the way for the process of improving the international situation and untangling regional conflicts, and thereby made the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan possible. In Pakistan exceptionally great interest was aroused by the new proposals on Afghanistan contained in M.S. Gorbachev's 7 December UN speech.

People here also welcomed the first Soviet contacts with representatives of the armed Afghan opposition, in particular with the alliance of seven parties. On the eve of my arrival in Islamabad a meeting took place there between Soviet diplomats and representatives of the alliance, organized by the Pakistani Foreign Ministry. It was devoted to discussing the question of the release of Soviet servicemen taken prisoner by the mujahedin.

At a news conference, answering my question on the prospects for resolving the Afghan problem, Prime Minister B. Bhutto said: "We are witnessing contacts between the alliance and the Soviet Union on the question of prisoners of war. Perhaps in time such contacts could be extended to other problems."

It is therefore not surprising that reports on the meetings between Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister and USSR ambassador to Afghanistan, and the Afghan opposition met with a very positive reaction in Pakistan. They are assessed as evidence of the Soviet Union's desire to promote the restoration of peace in the region. By playing an active role in the talks process the USSR is fulfilling its mission as a guarantor of the Geneva agreements.

These meetings, leading journalists noted in conversations with me at the editorial office of the Lahore newspaper NATION, are also evidence that among the

more moderate section of the Afghan opposition a process of reinterpretation of the opposition's irreconcilable position and a quest for more realistic approaches have begun. And they stressed that the development of this process requires the isolation of the "hawks," first and foremost, among the "alliance of seven." My interlocutors in Pakistan noted that the government of that country, on whose territory the "alliance of seven" has entrenched itself, could do more to promote the etsablishment in that milieu of a healthy, constructive approach to an Afghan settlement. And the need for this is obvious. Because even those groupings from the "alliance of seven" that took part in contacts with us have not yet embarked on a path of realism.

I cannot help noting that even in Pakistan by no means everyone has grasped the need for a new look at the problems arising in connection with the need for an Afghan settlement. The inertia of the former policy weighs down their thinking. This applies first and foremost to military circles. I was warned by a prominent Lahore journalist, who has been following everything connected with Afghanistan for a long time and often writes on the subject, that although even in some parts of these circles a process of reevaluation of the Afghan policy is beginning, it is no use expecting them to stop supplying weapons to the mujahedin. He asked me not to mention his name, and this too is symptomatic. Clearly many people have not forgotten the repressions of the former regime and do not yet believe in the radicalness of the changes that have taken place.

Farsighted political commentators are aware of the full danger for Pakistan of continuing its former policy on Afghanistan. Continued interference in that country's affairs will have disastrous consequences both for the political situation and for the economy of Pakistan, M.B. Nakvi, an authoritative, senior political commentator, observed. We have enough urgent problems of our own, such as unemployment, the trade and budget deficit, and high prices, he went on, and efforts should be concentrated on tackling these. In general a profound restructuring of Pakistan's relations with the Soviet Union and India is needed.

Summing up my impressions, I must say that Pakistanis today are fairly optimistic about the problem of an Afghan settlement. They believe that the process of new political thinking that is gathering speed in international affairs will promote this.

Abdul Wakil Arrives, Met by Bessmertnykh

LD0401192989 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1905 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—Abdul Wakil, Afghan foreign minister, arrived in Moscow today on his way from Kabul to Paris to take part in the international conference on chemical weapons.

He was met at the airport by Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, first USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Scheduled Withdrawal From Afghanistan Expected

LD0501132589 Moscow World Service in English 0410 GMT 5 Jan

[Review of world developments with Yuriy Reshetnikov]

[Text] With the deadline for the withdrawal of Soviet troops running out next month, 15 February, and the situation in Afghanistan as tense as it is right now, the inevitable question is whether the Soviet Union will honor its commitment under the Geneva Agreement.

[Reshetnikov] Well, the question as I understand, is whether or not the Soviet Union would withdraw its forces completely under any circumstances. All indications are that the Soviet Union would withdraw its forces completely under any circumstances. All indications are that the Soviet Union will complete the scheduled withdrawal under any circumstances. Diplomats, however, prefer to be evasive on that question. Yuliy Vorontsov, for one, told a news conference in Islamabad, if a cease-fire holds and there is no fighting in Afghanistan, then that's a very good situation for Soviet forces to leave. Afghan rebels however have refused to accept a cease-fire to work things out peacefully. When asked if Soviet troops might stay in Afghanistan beyond the 15 February deadline, Yuliy Vorontsov was hedging his bets; he replied with an evasive we shall see; I don't know.

Rebel Attacks Reported in Afghanistan

LD0401195489 Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul January 4 TASS—The Afghan towns of Shari Kar, [place name as received] Feyzabad, Jabal os Saraj, Farah, and Qandahar came under artillery and rocket bombardments once again today. The fire caused casualties among the population, BAKHTAR News Agency reported. Formations of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan and also separate rebel groups violated for yet another time ceasefire conditions.

In Qandahar Province government troops dealt a retaliatory strike at opposition detachments, destroying 25 extremists.

Fighting between groups of various parties of the alliance of the seven today continued in Qandahar and Laghman. About 30 rebels were killed or injured in fratricidal clashes. BAKHTAR points out that the unilateral ceasefire announced by the Afghan leadership ceases to be in effect on January 5 in case the opposition forces continue the shelling and attacks.

BAKHTAR reports that the 171st and 172nd notes of the foreign ministry of the republic of Afghanistan were today handed over to the U.N. Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They contain facts of the new violation by Pakistan of the Geneva agreements.

Trade Talks With Afghanistan Open in Moscow

LD0301085489 Moscow TASS in English 0847 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 3 TASS—Questions of expanding trade between the USSR and Afghanistan are discussed at the talks which started here on Tuesday. The sides will look at the prospects for bilateral trade exchanges in 1989. The Soviet delegation is led by Konstantin Katushev, minister of foreign economic relations of the USSR, the Afghan delegation by Trade Minister Mohammad Khan Jalalar.

The volume of Soviet-Afghan trade remains at the sufficiently stable level in the past few years—some 800-900 million roubles a year. The USSR exports industrial equipment, means of transportation, farm machinery, oil products, rolled stock [as received], foodstuffs and other goods. Afghan deliveries to the Soviet market include mainly natural gas, cotton fibre, leather, wool, fruit, other traditional export goods.

Murakhovskiy Meets Trade Minister

LD0401180889 Moscow TASS in English 1626 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Agro-Industrial Committee (Gosagroprom), today met Afghan trade minister Muhammad Khan Jalalar.

They discussed Soviet-Afghan commercial and economic cooperation and prospects for its development, taking into account various aspects of the implementation of the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan.

The Afghan minister is leading a governmental delegation which has arrived in the USSR for talks and to sign a protocol on trade between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in 1989.

Trade Agreements Signed

LD0401174089 Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—"The Soviet Union will continue to play a rather important part in Afghanistan's foreign trade turnover, as well as in its development," Muhammad Khan Jalalar, Afghan minister of trade, stated here on Wednesday. On behalf of the Afghan Government he signed a number of documents on bilateral trade and economic cooperation for 1989. On behalf of the Soviet side they were signed by Konstantin Katushev, USSR minister of foreign economic relations.

A 1989 trade protocol envisages the deliveries from the USSR to Afghanistan of machines, equipment, transport vehicles, fuel and lubricating materials, ferrous rolled stock, electricity and so on. Afghanistan will export to the USSR cotton, gas, carbamide, citrus and other fruits and clothes.

On the whole, the volume of Soviet deliveries to Afghanistan will remain on the 1988 level. Muhammad Khan Jalalar pointed out in his speech at the signing ceremony that the fact that the deliveries to Afghanistan of vitally important consumer goods would not be reduced was very important. As for Afghan export to the USSR, its volume will be reduced a little because of the present-day situation in the country.

A number of credit and financial documents were also signed. They will permit to balance trade accounts in 1989.

The two countries attach much importance to measures aimed at developing new forms of bilateral business cooperation. Specifically, they signed a document under which Soviet and Afghan organisations should promote operations in the Soviet market of private Afghan companies and businessmen. They outlined a number of commodities to be included in trade turnover between Soviet foreign trade organisations and the Afghan private sector. Thus, the USSR will deliver cards, trucks, timber and food, including rice, sugar and flour, as well as household electric appliances. In their turn, Afghan businessmen are going to sell to their Soviet partners wool, lambskin, small raw hides, fruit, carpets and handicraft articles.

Agreement was reached on further deliveries from the USSR of machinery and equipment for engineering and agricultural facilities of the Jalalabad irrigation complex by the end of 1990.

Islamabad SAARC Meeting Considered Successful

OW0401102489 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2330 GMT 3 Jan 89

[From the Novosti newscast; Vsevolod Solovyev commentary]

[Text] The results of the conference of heads of states and governments of the seven member-countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the topic of our commentary.

[Solovyev] Hello comrades. The results of the meeting were summed up in a concluding declaration which has now acquired the name of the Islamabad Declaration. This declaration expresses satisfaction with the progress

achieved in recent years and expresses the determination to develop cooperation in the interest of raising the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and the elimination of the most acute, topical problems of the region—poverty, hunger, sickness, and illiteracy. Also of importance is the question of environmental protection. Moreover, the tone of the speeches made by the participants of the meeting and the specific proposals made on the development of cooperation and political dialogue in the region were so important and constructive—unlike in years gone—and so similar to each other that observers were able to state with certainty, even before the 3-day conference ended, that a totally new future image of South Asia was about to emerge—the image of a prosperous and a strong region.

One of the factors which undoubtedly determines the future of the region is the state of relations between India and Pakistan. Parallel to the conference, bilateral talks between the leaders of the two countries—Benazir Bhutto and Rajiv Gandhi—took place. Not surprisingly, particular attention was paid to these talks. Perhaps there has never been a case in history when the son and daughter of two slain national leaders not only came to power at about the same time but also had the opportunity to influence the fate of their respective countries, as did their parents.

In Islamabad, Bhutto and Gandhi showed willingness to normalize relations between the two countries. As is well known, recent relations between the two countries have been strained and filled with all kinds of suspicions.

Describing their talks as very good, Bhutto and Gandhi signed several agreements—the first such official agreements between the two countries in the past 16 years. In the words of Bhutto, the process which will lead to a better understanding and trust between the two peoples has begun and this, in time, will overcome the existing difficulties.

The results of the Islamabad conference, and the results of the talks between India and Pakistan, are seen as an auspicious sign for future dynamic and rapid development of the countries of the region.

Talks Could Mark 'Turning Point'

PM0401163189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 89 Second Edition p 5

[Veniamin Shurygin "Viewpoint": "Long Overdue Changes"]

[Text] A conference of the heads of state and representatives of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka—was held in Islamabad. This, the fourth such meeting since the association was set up in 1985, attracted particular attention from political observers. The point is that last year was marked by important events within the countries of the region whose consequences—I believe—will make a substantial positive impact on the development of the situation in South Asia. One should first cite the parliamentary and presidential elections held last November-December in Pakistan. They put an end to the 11-year rule of the military dictatorship, and leadership of the country passed into the hands of a civilian administration.

The general election brought victory for the opposition Pakistan People's Party led by Benazir Bhutto, who also became the country's new prime minister. There were changes in the Sri Lankan leadership on the eve of the new year. An energetic popular leader—64-year-old Ranasinghe Premadasa, a representative of the ruling United National Party, who held the post of prime minister—replaced J.R. Jayewardene, the former 82-year-old president of the island republic.

One should also mention here the recent Indian-Chinese summit talks, whose positive results are important not only for the mutual relations between the two greatest Asian powers but also for improving the political climate in Asia as a whole. India's PATRIOT wrote that SAARC meetings have never been held in such a favorable atmosphere in which solutions have been found to a number of regional conflicts thanks to the radical change in East-West relations.

The 3 days of talks between the forum's participants were of a constructive character and were focused on ways and means of fulfilling SAARC's main task—ensuring the economic and social progress of the association's members by making optimum use of their human and material resources. The final document—the Islamabad Declaration—provides for specific joint measures to combat terrorism, drug trafficking, and the causes and consequences of natural disasters. It says that the main obstacle to world development is the escalation of military expenditure, so the funds spent on arms should be channeled into stimulating young states' economic progress.

The leaders of the South Asian countries welcomed the steps by the USSR and United States to reduce nuclear arsenals and confirmed their adherence to the struggle for the cessation of the nuclear arms race and the destruction of nuclear weapons.

The present conference is significant for India and Pakistan—and moreover for other SAARC countries—in that talks took place during it between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. This was the first visit to Pakistan by an Indian premier in 28 years. Substantial results were expected from this meeting between leaders representing the young generation of Indians and Pakistanis. For Indian-Pakistani relations are an important element and one that has a tremendous, if not a determining, influence on the political climate in the region. At the same time throughout the 40 years that have elapsed since

both countries' proclamation of independence, their relations have been characterized by tension that has at times turned into military conflicts. The Kashmir problem, border disputes, and, in recent years, massive U.S. shipments of modern offensive weaponry to Pakistan were the main irritants. Moreover, statements by official Indian spokesmen have frequently indicated that Sikh extremists find refuge on Pakistani territory.

R. Gandhi and B. Bhutto reportedly discussed a broad range of questions of international development and bilateral relations. As a result of the talks, an agreement was signed on nonaggression against one another's nuclear facilities. The significance of this constructive Indian-Pakistan dialogue goes beyond the framework of this and other concrete accords. It is not impossible that the Islamabad meeting will be a turning point and will initiate a process of establishing relations of good-neighborliness and cooperation between the two countries.

...The Himalayan mountain range—the highest in the world—in the north and the endless watery expanse of the Indian Ocean separate the South Asian region from the rest of the world. However, the winds of positive changes that are being felt with increasing force in the life of the world community are also infiltrating the countries of South Asia. Confrontation, hostility, and suspicion are also giving way here to mutual understanding, trust, cooperation, and a desire to resolve existing disputes via talks on the basis of reasonable mutual compromises. These trends also prevailed in the work of the current SAARC conference, which undoubtedly made a constructive contribution to the normalization of the situation in the region.

Indian-Pakistani Talks Viewed

PM0401132989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 89 Morning Edition p 4

[Article by V. Skosyrev under the rubric "Details and Commentaries": "India-Pakistan: Horizon is Clearing"]

[Excerpts] In politics forecasts are always fraught with the danger of error. Especially when it is a case of the situation on the Indian subcontinent, where instability is chronic. Nonetheless I venture to assert that the talks between the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers in Islamabad held on the eve of the New Year at the same time as sessions of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] are among those events which may be the pretext for long-awaited detente in this region. [passage omitted]

It is in this atmosphere that Rajiv Gandhi is taking a bold and far-sighted step. He is setting off for Islamabad—formally for the latest SAARC conference but in fact to meet with B. Bhutto. After all, for all the importance of the problems discussed at the conference, the destiny of peace in South Asia depends primarily on Indian-Pakistani relations.

With what baggage has the Indian premier returned home? Answering journalists' questions, R. Gandhi noted that B. Bhutto's government, which came to power by democratic means, will pursue a more flexible and constructive policy in the region than did Ziaul Haq's regime. Well, if the visit had been marked merely by an improvement in the atmosphere even that would have been a lot. But India and Pakistan also concluded three agreements: on not attacking each other's nuclear establishments, on preventing dual taxation in trade deals, and on expanding cultural cooperation.

All three documents continue the line toward preventing conflicts and developing cooperation which was outlined in the 1972 agreement in Simla signed by the father and mother of the present leaders—Z.A. Bhutto and Indira Gandhi. These two outstanding statesmen proceeded from the premise that there is no sensible alternative to peaceful cooperation.

The desire to consolidate mutual trust also permeates the present agreement on not attacking nuclear establishments—the most important of the documents signed in Islamabad. Both capitals believe that this accord will help remove fear of a preemptive missile or bomb strike against nuclear installations, a fear experienced by military strategists on both sides of the border.

Of course, we cannot fail to see the limited nature of this agreement. It does not fully eliminate the threat of a nuclear race in Hindustan. In this connection India's position is particularly important. It believes that nuclear disarmament is a global question which must be resolved globally. As the Indian representative at the SAARC conference told REUTER, Delhi is also opposed to signing a regional agreement to which China is not a signatory.

We should not expect that after the meeting in Islamabad the right-wing opposition to Bhutto's government in Pakistan, closely linked with Muslim fundamentalism, will renounce its campaign in support of unfounded claims to those regions of Kashmir which have become an inalienable part of India and are under its control. On the contrary, immediately before the meeting the anti-Indian campaign was even stepped up. In my view all this deprives the Pakistani premier of freedom to maneuver and impedes the c' aring away of obstacles of the past.

Nonetheless the processes initiated in Simla has received new impetus. And whereas in the seventies and the first half of the eighties the development of this process was impeded by the winds of the cold war, now the improvement of Soviet-U.S. and Soviet-Chinese relations favors changes. The horizon over South Asia is clearing.

Kolbin Leads CPSU Delegation Return From India

LD0301112889 Moscow TASS in English 1058 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 3 TASS—A Soviet Communist Party delegation led by Gennadiy Kolbin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the

Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, returned to the Soviet Union on Tuesday. It took part in the work of the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Palestine's Hawatimah Interviewed on Middle East
LD0101192189 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by unidentified correspondent in Damascus on 1 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] It gives me pleasure to introduce Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, who was kind enough to take part in our talk today. Can you, Comrade Hawatimah, talk about the current conditions in the occupied territories?

[Hawatimah] Today the Palestinian Intifadah enters its 2d glorious year. Three hundred and sixty full days have passed and the Intifadah is still burning in the face of the Israeli occupation. Its slogan is: No to occupation; the forces of the expansionist Israeli occupiers must leave the Palestinian West Bank, Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and secure the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and national independence on their soil. The Intifadah is burning, all the bloody efforts of the Zionist Israeli junta to end this Intifadah, break it and abort it have failed. Also, all the efforts exerted by the U.S. Administration to deal a blow to the Intifadah and find alternatives to the PLO have failed. We all remember that in 1988 Shultz had carried out four full tours of the Middle East and the Palestinian territories, seeking Palestinians to negotiate with them instead of the PLO [as heard]. All these attempts failed; the Intifadah stood fast and continues; the bloody oppression and the bestial Israeli massacres are also escalating. But the Palestinian people have made their firm decision: no retreat; rather, the continuation of the struggle until the expulsion of occupation and the securing of independence.

Now the Intifadah in the occupied territories is backed by the resolution of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, which constitutes an advanced, developed, Palestinian attitude in search of a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis, within the context of an international conference under UN auspices, and with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO in its capacity as representative of the Palestinian people in line with international resolutions and the Arab and Palestinian resolutions. The Intifadah has now organized its democratic, collective, and popular action, the recent resolutions of the Palestine National Council of November, the declaration of the State of Palestine, and the UN resolutions of December 1988 confirming the need for an international conference by a majority of 180 world states, with the objection of the U.S. and Israel alone, which admitted the state of Palestine as an observer member of the UN. Also, the Intifadah has a unified national command which aids the struggle for the expulsion of occupation. Therefore, we can say clearly that the Intifadah will continue until independence, and the Israeli oppression efforts will fail no matter how big the massacres will be. We expect that the American and the Zionist Israeli blackmail of the Intifadah will continue, especially now that the Intifadah has stood fast, U.S. policy in the Middle East has been isolated, and the U.S. has been forced to retreat and open a dialogue with the PLO. We expect Israel to carry out wider bloody massacres, especially after the forming of the coalition from Labor, Likud, and the extremist and rightist orthodox religious parties. But we are very confident that the Intifadah, which has lasted a whole year, will last until Israel is forced to retreat and accept the convening of the international conference to search for a balanced and just solution in the Middle East, securing for the Palestinian people a return to their homeland, the construction of an independent state, and their self-determination.

[Correspondent] Articles have appeared in the press of some Arab countries which cast doubt on the benefits of the new line in the Soviet Union to the cause of the Arab nation, and to the Palestinian cause in particular. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Hawatimah] We notice that there is a wide campaign in the reactionary and bourgeois Arab press against the Soviet policy in the Middle East, which casts doubt on this policy and on the extent to which it is principled. But the Palestinian people, having long experience in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reactionary forces, cannot be duped by such articles. It knows the Soviet Union through its firm and principled attitude toward the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause. Through all those years, since the 1st day of our present revolution and the birth of the PLO, the Soviet Union has adopted a firm, principled attitude on the side of the Palestinian people and their right to return to their country, their right to self-determination and to build an independent state, and it has recognized the PLO as sole legitimate representative of our people. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Does this mean that restructuring in the USSR and the new dialogue with the United States do not have a negative effect on Soviet support for the cause of the Arab nation?

[Hawatimah] We are certain of this, because restructuring is a necessity dictated by the development of the revolution in the USSR, for the sake of the restructuring and modernization of the entire Soviet economic, social, political, spiritual, and cultural life. The new political line, and the new political thinking of the Soviet Union, are aimed at a search for just and balanced solutions to the tense regional problems, and foremost the explosive problem of the Middle East, which has been on a powder-keg for 40 years, since the Zionist movement succeeded in setting up Israel and since imperialism succeeded in imposing its hegemony over large regions of

the Arab countries. The new political thinking is aimed at reaching balanced solutions which take into account the interests of all the warring parties, foremost the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and build an independent state on their national soil, the right to self-determination and an end to Israeli occupation of all the occupied Arab lands. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Thank you very much for the interview.

[Hawatimah] You are welcome.

Sri Lanka's New President Premadasa Interviewed
LD0301225589 Moscow TASS in English 2054 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo January 3 TASS—By TASS correspondent Sergey Spitsyn:

Sri Lanka's new President Ranasinghe Premadasa today expressed satisfaction with a relaxation of international tension and invigoration of the struggle for peace in different regions.

"We highly appreciate the fact that the great powers start realizing the futulity of war and are making a positive contribution to creating a climate of peace," he underlined, answering questions put by Soviet journalists. "In Sri Lanka we are keeping an interested eye over President Gorbachev's appreciable and far-reaching efforts aimed at carrying out favourable changes both in the Soviet Union and in the international arena. Reduction of armaments and elimination of the threat of a nuclear war are important factors.

"Sri Lanka and the USSR are maintaining friendly relations and cooperating in different areas, including culture, sports and technology. There are no reasons which stand in the way of expansion of bilateral cooperation in other areas. We should promote consolidation of all aspects which are of mutual interest," said Ranasinghe Premadasa.

"My presidential activities will be concentrated on attaining such basic aims as, first, restoration of peace in the country, second, consolidation of discipline and, third, elimination of poverty," he said.

"I shall try to attain peace through consultations, compromise and concord. Discipline will be strengthened through strict observance of law and order and restoration of moral values. Poverty will be eliminated through restructuring the political, social-economic and administrative areas," said R. Premadasa. "Poverty of a considerable part of the population is the main problem of Sri Lanka, as a Third World country. Therefore in the next few years the efforts will be concentrated on solving that problem, too," he said.

"Let me avail myself of the opportunity to convey on the occasion of the New Year the best of wishes to the great Soviet people from the Sri Lankan people," the president said.

Tamil Beam Comments on Sri Lankan Situation
BK0501071989 Moscow International Service in Tamil 1400 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Station commentator Oleg Ivanov]

[Text] In Colombo, Ranasinghe Premadasa was officially sworn in as the new president of Sri Lanka. Our commentator Oleg Ivanov writes:

Premadasa has assumed office at a very crucial period in the history of the Republic of Sri Lanka. The ethnic conflict between the Sinhalese and the Tamils has not yet been settled there. This is the most pertinent issue before the new leaders of Sri Lanka. All serious problems that grip Sri Lanka are connected with this problem only.

Till now, the Indo-Sri Lankan accord signed by Rajiv Gandhi and Jayewardene in 1987 remained as the basis for efforts to pave the way for settling the conflict. It is understood that this accord is aimed at providing autonomy to the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern areas, sending Indian troops for the maintenance of peace in Sri Lanka, and supervising the implementation of the accord by all the parties concerned.

But it seems that Ranasinghe Premadasa has decided to bring in some basic changes. He has requested from New Delhi the phased withdrawal of the Indian troops in Sri Lanka. As the president, this is his first step toward the implementation of his foreign policy. India accepted his request. Two battalions of Indian troops will be pulled out of Sri Lanka by January of this year. It is understood that immediate withdrawal of all the Indian troops from Sri Lanka is not possible. A specific timeframe for the withdrawal of Indian troops has not yet been finalized. But now political observers are trying to forecast the situation that will be created in Sri Lanka after the return of the last Indian soldier.

Much attention has been focussed on the pledge of Premadasa during his swearing-in ceremony that favorable conditions, which are necessary for safeguarding freedom and peace, will be created. Political observers point out that opportunities can be created for politically improving the situation in Sri Lanka by the phased withdrawal of the Indian troops there. They openly speak about the difficulties which the Sri Lankan authorities are going to confront after the withdrawal of the Indian troops. For instance, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have rejected the Indo-Sri Lankan accord. They stand for the creation of a separate nation called Tamil Eelam. They have lost the support from the

people. Their extremist policy is an important cause for this. But they have adequate capacity to intensify the political crisis in the Tamil-dominated areas through their acts of terrorism.

Political observers feel that it is (?futile) to hope that the Sinhalese extremists, especially the supporters of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, will cool down after the withdrawal of the Indian troops. It should be pointed out that the Sinhalese extremists oppose not only the presence of Indian troops in Sri Lanka but also the granting of autonomy to the Tamil areas. We hope that the new Sri Lankan Government will utilize all the favorable things and will reject the unfavorable ones. However, in Sri Lanka the current year will not be a comfortable one.

One more thing should also be pointed out here. It is totally natural to note keen interest in the events in Sri Lanka. Because, in this complex world with various interconnections, the unstable situation in a nation will echo beyond its boundaries. Therefore, the countries of South Asia are eager for an early solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. They greet the new leaders of Sri Lanka to achieve this goal.

TRUD Interviews Yemen Arab Republic Minister

PM0501115789 Moscow TRUD in Russian
4 Jan 89 p 3

[Interview with 'A.K. al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic, by APN own correspondent A. Kolodkov and TRUD own correspondent Z. Nalbandyan, in Sanaa: "There Is Nothing More Important Than Peace"; date not specified]

[Text] Sanaa, January—North Yemen was one of the first Arab countries to establish diplomatic relations with the young Soviet republic. The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between our countries was signed in November 1928. This friendship has stood the test of time. The Soviet Union now gives the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] assistance in constructing many important projects, helps in the training of cadres, and provides modern technology.

But our conversation with 'A.K. al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the YAR, began with help of a different kind. At the end of December three aircraft left Sanaa for Yerevan with medical supplies and essentials for the victims of the earthquake in Armenia. The lofty moral basis for that act by the YAR Government is underlined by the fact that North Yemen, according to UN data, is one of the 25 poorest countries in the world.

"Despite its complex economic situation, your country deemed it necessary to respond to Armenia's tragedy and sent things there which it needs itself...."

"The Soviet Union has done so much for us and has so frequently supported the YAR people in difficult times that we will probably never be able completely to express our gratitude to your country," 'A.K. al-'Iryani said. "Of course, what we have sent the victims of the earthquake will in no way resolve your problems. Our aid must be regarded, rather, as a symbolic gesture, as a manifestation of the YAR people's sincere sympathy with Soviet people."

Summing up the political results of last year, 'A.K. al-'Iryani named M.S. Gorbachev's UN speech among the most important events. In the opinion of 'A.K. al-'Iryani, it was a turning point in mankind's history.

"In foreign policy the YAR adheres to such basic principles as respect for partners, good relations, and noninterference in other countries' internal affairs," the minister continued. "We also sincerely believe that what the world needs today is peace, not confrontation. In our opinion, peace must be the chief priority in international relations. This is why we so enthusiastically support the peace initiatives advanced by the Soviet Union. It has to be said that your restructuring has given a new boost to the development of the peace process. Thanks to it, the world is moving away from the former political concepts. For example, the active peace offensive which, thanks to your country above all, the USSR and the United States have recently been conducting, differs favorably from the detente of the early seventies by virtue of its dynamism. It is considerably more than detente.

"Another example of the advantages of the peace process is the breakthrough which has become apparent in settling the Afghan crisis. This breakthrough has come about thanks to the positive and, I would say, courageous steps of the Soviet Union, which has decided to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

"The development of the situation in that country now largely depends on how responsibly the Afghans themselves treat the problem. It seems to us that all the sides involved in the conflict must now forget their old differences, embark on the path of democracy, and together ensure Afghanistan's peaceful future. Only with such an approach will it be possible to avoid further bloodshed. This is why we welcome the Soviet Union's recent active diplomatic efforts in this direction. We hope that they will be crowned with success. For its part the YAR seeks to promote the peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict in every possible way.

"Positive changes have also occurred in the Near East problem. For the first time in long years the United States has abandoned its position of not entering into negotiations with the PLO. We consider this decision by the U.S. Administration important but insufficient, for it still does not recognize the Palestinians' right to create their own independent state.

"The YAR's position on the Palestinian issue is clear. We advocate observance of this Arab people's rights and will support any decision that the Palestinians adopt on a democratic basis. When the Palestinians decided in mid-November that the time had come to proclaim an independent state, we were among the first to support that decision. And we will promote the achievement of this goal in every possible way in the future.

"As regards an international conference on the Near East, we believe that it must not be just a cover for direct talks between Israel and its neighbors. That would be wrong, because the fate of the Palestinians concerns all Arabs and must be resolved by everyone together. This is why we believe that an international conference must not be a formal cover for separate talks, but a guarantee of peace in the region."

In conclusion 'A.K. al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the YAR, wished TRUD's readers and all Soviet people great successes and health in the new year.

Mauritania's Foreign Minister Makes Statement

LD3112082088 Moscow TASS in English 0630 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Nouakchot December 31 TASS—By TASS correspondent Aleksander Urazov:

The Mauritanian leaders highly appreciate the Soviet Union's efforts aimed at strengthening the process of relaxation in international relations, attaining nuclear disarmament and settling regional conflicts, the TASS correspondent has been told here by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania Mohammed Sidina Ould Sidya.

Mauritania welcomes the conclusion of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan, he said, and expressed confidence that the difficulties which still hamper realisation of these agreements would not prevent solution of the Afghan problem in the interests of all sides.

The minister noted with satisfaction changes for the better in solution of the Western Sahara problem. He highly assessed the U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar's efforts aimed at settling the armed conflict in Western Sahara. The adoption of the U.N. secretary-general's peace plan by Morocco and the Polisario Front makes one confident that peace in Western Sahara will soon be restored, the minister stressed.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Adamishin Receives Frontline States' Envoys

PM0401160989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Keen Discussion"]

[Text] On 29 December USSR Deputy Foreign Minister A.L. Adamishin received the heads of the Angolan, Zambian, Zimbabwean, Mozambican, and Tanzanian diplomatic missions and the Moscow representatives of the South-West African People's Organization and the African National Congress. They told him of the decisions of the Lusaka conference of leaders of the "Frontline" States and national liberation movements in southern Africa in light of the agreements that have just been signed on an Angolan-Namibian settlement. In turn, the deputy foreign minister told them of the Soviet Union's stance on these issues. There was a discussion showing comradely interest in the development of the situation in southern African. During the conversation the ambassadors expressed gratitude for the constructive part played by the Soviet Union in the settlement in South-West Africa.

Communique on Deputies' Visit to Madagascar

PM0501102989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 5

["Joint Communique on USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation Visit to the Democratic Republic of Madagascar"]

[Text] A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by G.P. Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, paid an official visit to the Democratic Republic of Madagascar (DRM) in December 1988 at the invitation of the DRM Popular National Assembly.

The delegation visited Antsirabe and a number of its industrial enterprises and acquainted itself with the life and work of the Malagasy people, the activity of local self-management bodies, and the DRM's achievements in developing the national economy and culture.

The delegation was received by DRM President D. Ratsiraka.

The Soviet delegation had conversations with Prime Minister V. Ramahatra; G. Solofson, minister of trade and acting foreign minister; L. Andrianarahinjaka, president of the Popular National Assembly; members of the Permament Bureau; and deputies of the Popular National Assembly, during which the sides exchanged information on the activity of the two countries' parliaments and their contribution to strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Malagasy people and to cementing peace and international security.

The USSR Supreme Soviet deputies told the Malagasy side about the restructuring proc[illegible] in the USSR and work to implement the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference guidelines on implementing political reform. Special attention was paid to the outcome of the extraordinary 12th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th convocation, and the laws adopted at it, after nationwide discussion, on amendments and additions to the USSR Constitution and the election of USSR people's deputies,

which set in motion the renewal of the structure of the soviets, the procedure for the formation and activity of the supreme organs of power, and the electoral system.

The Malagasy parliamentarians acquainted the Soviet delegation members with the organizational structure and practical activities of the DRM Popular National Assembly in tackling the tasks facing the country connected with implementing progressive socioeconomic transformations.

The Soviet and Malagasy parliamentarians exchanged opinions on questions of bilateral relations and international problems of mutual interest. During the discussion of bilateral relations, it was noted with satisfaction that Soviet-Malagasy ties, developing in accordance with the provisions of the declaration on the principles of friendly mutual relations and cooperation, are stable and have fine prospects.

The USSR Supreme Soviet and DRM Popular National Assembly deputies expressed willingness to continue developing links through parliamentary channels, regarding them as an important element of Soviet-Malagasy cooperation.

During the exchange of opinions on international problems, broad agreement was recorded in the two countries' positions. The sides emphasized the importance of the practical implementation of the ideas of creating an all-embracing system of international peace and security and stepping up the efforts of all states, large and small, and their parliamentarians in the interests of eliminating the threat of nuclear war and achieving real progress in the sphere of disarmament, above all nuclear disarmament, the political settlement of regional conflicts, and the development of mutually advantageous cooperation among all states.

The DRM Popular National Assembly deputies expressed a high opinion of the USSR's contribution to the cause of the struggle for peace, the constructive Soviet peace initiatives geared to creating a nuclear-free and nonviolent world, and its efforts to strengthen trust between peoples and states on the basis of new political thinking.

The two countries' parliamentarians expressed the belief that the Soviet parliamentary delegation's official visit to the DRM was a considerable contribution to strengthening friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Malagasy people and broadening the fruitful links between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the DRM Popular National Assembly.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation invited Malagasy parliamentarians to pay an official visit to the USSR. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

East Europe

Hungary's Szuros Hails Gorbachev UN Speech

PM0401121789 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 89 Second Edition p 4

[Article by Matyas Szuros, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee and chairman of the Hungarian Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee: "With Prospects for the Future. UN Speech: Boost for Quest and Action"]

[Text] Budapest, Jan—A broad range of leading politicians and the international public have expressed identical opinions on M.S. Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations and his statement concerning a considerable unilateral reduction in and withdrawal of troops as being an outstandingly important event of 1988. In the universal opinion, what was said represents practical implementation both of the Soviet policy of new thinking that has been taking shape since 1985 and is becoming increasingly crucial and of the modern concept in the disarmament sphere.

This philosophy rejects the military logic of mutual destruction. It expresses a desire for maximum, equal, and guaranteed security—at a lower military level. It is based on new political notions that have the interests of all mankind at heart. This step heralds the possibility of a turnaround in international relations whose overall political, economic, and military significance is as yet immeasurable today. It is propitious that this kind of approach can increasingly be found in talks on the crucial issues of our present and future. It is also reflected in agreements.

The speech in New York at the UN session continues a series of Soviet initiatives linked with the most important problems of international life. It expresses an approach treating the political, economic, cultural, and humanitarian side of cooperation and security and the question of environmental protection as a single entity. In the opinion of Western observers, the new Soviet initiative has created the possibility of a move away from mutual total confrontation to a stance that accords with the demands of our era. As a result, one can already see the outlines of a new world order, based on cooperation, in which countries belonging to different social systems will strive to solve jointly the global problems facing mankind without ideological prejudice and in the light of their mutual dependence and their own interests.

The Soviet Union is endeavoring to find new approaches to strengthening international peace and security in conditions where the level of global equilibrium in the most crucial sphere, from the viewpoint of the correlation of forces—the sphere of strategic offensive arms—will remain unchanged. Talks on an approximate 50-percent reduction in these weapons systems are at the coordination stage, although it has not as yet proved possible to achieve a satisfactory result. In this situation the Soviet Union—while continuing to make extensive

efforts aimed at securing equilibrium in nuclear arms at a lower level—also wants to facilitate the elimination of the prevailing asymmetries in the conventional arms sphere. This indicates its realization that there is no chance of making substantial progress in any other sphere of disarmament without reducing and limiting conventional arms.

The Soviet Union's unilateral actions are steadily reducing the sense of threat fueled by the West and the concern over security, and are softening the traditional "enemy image." At the same time there is the possibility that, against the backdrop of growing trust, Western states will display their own initiatives and that the upward spiral of military measures and countermeasures will be replaced by a downward spiral. Although one cannot realistically expect a situation acceptable to NATO in every respect to arise immediately as a result of the Soviet statement, it is nonetheless desirable for the other side to follow the Soviet steps in the interests of reducing conventional arms. This is above all possible in those spheres where the West has superiority: for instance, in offensive naval and air forces.

While unilaterally reducing its tank and infantry regiments, the Soviet Union is not linking this act with the talks on conventional arms reductions held now and in the future. At the same time this act gave a considerable boost to the start of the crucial process. The chances of success in the upcoming talks on arms reductions are improving. Their entire course may also be speeded up. Weighty obstacles have been removed from the path of building a joint "European home": Trust between the inhabitants of this home is growing. All this may help create qualitatively new conditions for summit meetings. The new possibilities are already leading to a situation in which it is worth holding a European-Atlantic summit meeting.

I would also like to mention in this connection the fact that the countries allied with us put forward an initiative in 1986 at a conference in Budapest on a substantial reduction in armed forces and conventional arms. This was stressed once again in Warsaw at the conference of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee. Through its unilateral reduction the Soviet Union has now taken a considerable step in this direction.

Thus there is greater consonance between the political and the military-technical aspects of the doctrine of our alliance system. This also constitutes a convincing response to those Western opinions that reproach us with lacking such consonance: The professed defensive nature of our doctrine and our offensive capabilities stemming from the prevailing structure of our armed forces counter one another. How necessary it is for the other side, NATO, to take similar steps indicating its political realism and boldness!

The Soviet Union is setting about transferring a number of military industry enterprises to civilian production. I deem this very important not only for the Soviet Union but also for the entire socialist world. Not only the diverse material resources freed by the disarmament process but also the use in the national economy of a considerable proportion of new industrial capacities will substantially promote the development of the Soviet economy and boost the population's standard of living.

This will help provide crucial proof of the feasibility of restructuring and its advantages and lead to changes in everyday life, which is necessary for those who are still in doubt today as to the correctness of the new path elaborated by the CPSU. The socialist countries that have embarked on the path of renewal could undoubtedly derive useful experience and tremendous support from the successes of Soviet economic reform. Switching military production to civilian purposes also proves at the same time that the Soviet leadership does not want to make up for the quantitative reduction in conventional arms with a large-scale modernization at the Warsaw Pact level either.

The fact that these measures also apply to the Soviet Armed Forces on our territory is of equally great importance both for Hungary's policy and for our public. This step accords with the concerted stance of the Warsaw Pact countries. It accords with the jointly elaborated stance of the alliance states and that of Hungary and is also consonant with our national interests. The desire for the Soviet forces and arms still left in our country to gradually be turned into defensive forces and arms also corresponds with our joint desires.

The Soviet arms limitation proposals prove the realism of the initiatives previously put forward by the MSZMP aimed at ensuring that Hungary is an active participant in the first stage of the process of disarmament and conventional arms reductions in Europe. Our country does not lie on the "main strategic salient." It threatens no one. Thus the reduction and withdrawal of troops will not weaken the security of either our country or our alliance system. We believe that Hungary can be a proving ground not only in the sphere of reductions in conventional forces and arms but also in the sphere of international verification and the fulfillment of disarmament measures.

I would like to stress that our country is taking an active part in the consistent implementation of the Soviet proposals in accordance with our specific capabilities and interests, supplementing them with independent proposals in the spirit of its foreign policy and defense aspirations. We in Hungary reckon that M.S. Gorbachev's speech is also important for Hungarian-Soviet cooperation. We jointly advocate the creation of the requisite international conditions for greater external and internal security and also on questions of establishing priorities in fulfilling the tasks facing us. [sentence as published]

Poland's Rakowski Ponders Prospects for 1989

PM0401135189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
2 Jan 89 Second Edition p 5

[Article by M. Rakowski, member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers: "Understanding Restructuring"]

[Text] Warsaw—The past year, of course, was not an easy one for my country. Like previous years, it brought events which categorically confirmed an obvious truth: The liberation of the socialist formation from everything that has been a brake on its development is proceeding in a struggle against conservatism. People's concern in the face of the new, the untried, and the unknown is understandable. This applies to the politicians forming the leading structures of the organs of power at every level, just as it does to those whom they intend to govern. This does not mean, however, that the former and the latter do not include people capable of liberating themselves from the excessive burden of age-old habits and truths which for various reasons have become dogmas. Such people do exist and are the ones playing the role of the engine of progress!

In the process of reforming Poland's socioeconomic system in 1988, we were unable to avoid erroneous decisions which increased the population's discontent over the economic policy. There were strikes at several enterprises in late spring and late summer, and these influenced the revived activity of the political enemy and the resignation of the government of my predecessor, Comrade Zbigniew Messner.

These were events of considerable scale but should not be equated with a national disaster. The restructuring of outdated socioeconomic structures will not be achieved without losses, either now or in the future. And it is necessary to be ready to pay a certain price for that. What price? That depends on many factors.

In 1988 Poles' daily lives were subject to economic problems. The average Polish citizen assesses socialist renewal in terms of what he finds in the stores and how much he receives for his work. Economic theories, even the most intelligent ones, mean nothing to him. Our problem is that it is far harder to achieve economic successes than political results. Those are our problems as we enter 1989.

The problems which Poland has constantly had to resolve cannot be viewed in isolation from the changes taking place in the socialist community, particularly in the USSR. From here, on the banks of the Vistula, it is hard for me to examine in depth specific features of the multinational Soviet people's daily life, but I do not doubt for a minute that in 1988 the ideas and goals of restructuring gained new supporters in the world and Mikhail Gorbachev earned greatly increased sympathy and understanding from hundreds of millions of people, not only for himself but also for the Soviet Union and the CPSU. Without ignoring the difficulties which have surfaced in the process of restructuring and the sometimes dramatic events, mankind's greatest achievement in 1988 was, I believe, the reduction in the threat of thermonuclear war. This happened thanks to the Soviet Union's peace initiatives. There is something fascinating in the dynamic way M.S. Gorbachev has been breaking down the views of East-West relations which have existed for decades. Previously those views, as is well known, were full of a clear distrust of changes for the better; they, conversely, encouraged an unrestricted arms race. The year 1988 proved that this need not be.

What might the new year have in store for us all? In international relations I believe that the course aimed at resolving conflicts at the negotiating table will be maintained. The two powers—the USSR and the United States—will reach another agreement on reducing the existing military potentials.

At the same time increased resistance to the policy of arms limitation should be expected from the representatives of the military-industrial complex. In East-West relations the process of reducing tension will lead to new results, and trust between states and peoples will be strengthened. The East will continue to emphasize the need to resolve foreign policy problems regardless of ideologies. The West will do the opposite. The stage of profound and comprehensive changes which the socialist community has entered will create among anticommunist forces the illusion that a favorable moment has come to "squeeze out" communism.

The world's main problem in 1989 will remain the question of the fate of restructuring. If the goals proclaimed by its creators are perceived rationally and consciously by the entire Soviet public, we will all move closer to the lasting peace that we desire and socialism will strengthen its position among the peoples of the world. It is hard for me to say how far the USSR's peoples understand the great responsibility which they bear. If, as I fear, restructuring leads to conflicts of the kind that have been seen in Nagorno-Karabakh, the world will continue to be alarmed for the future, and socialism will lose some of its attraction.

As for Poland, I foresee a difficult year in the economy but tangible progress in the improvement of political relations. I also foresee the ideological and organizational consolidation of the PZPR.

The countries which form the socialist community will clearly be occupied primarily with their own problems, and for that reason, I think, considerable progress in the solution of questions relating to the functioning of CEMA should not be expected.

Article Views Problems Facing Yugoslavia

PM0401124189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 89 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent L. Kolosov report: "Yugoslavia Without a Government"]

[Text] Belgrade—Yugoslavia is sometimes called a country of paradoxes, and there is a certain amount of truth in that. Indeed, the socialist country, one of the first to embark on the path of maximum decentralization, has suddenly found itself infected with the virus of the new bureaucracy and technocracy and administrative-edict methods of managing the economy. A country which appeared to have resolved its food problem and loaded the store shelves with industrial goods has set a sad record for the rate of inflation, which according to preliminary figures will have reached about 300 percent over the past year. That is an unprecedented decline in the population's living standard. A country renowned for the militant traditions of its League of Communists has now been obliged to speak of the crisis in the party....

But the biggest paradox occurred on New Year's Eve. Branko Mikulic, president of the Federal Executive Council, resigned along with the entire government. A collective resignation. That had never happened before in Yugoslav history. The reason? The failure of its policy in every main direction. Failed attempts to implement the declared reforms: the economic reform and the reform of the political system. Differences. The lack of a clear line in pursuing party policy. Localistic egotism.

Yugoslavia entered the new year of 1989 without a government (the resignation was accepted on 30 December, but the old cabinet has been instructed to continue its functions until a new Federal Executive Council has been formed and approved by the Federal Assembly), without a budget, and with the still unresolved problem of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo, which not for nothing is called the country's "bleeding wound." The "Yugoslav model of socialism" which once gave rise—and, to be honest, continues in some places to give rise—to not entirely justified euphoria, has started to crack, people are writing here.

So perhaps the Yugoslav experience of socialist self-management has been a historical mistake? Some Yugoslav economists are putting the question in this way. But this way of putting the question would probably be an unjustified oversimplification. The social practice of the Communists and all working people of the federation is the inalienable possession of the peoples who have embarked on the path of socialist development. Self-management, as history bears out, is a concept of the same kind as democracy and glasnost. That is why the speeches by the country's statesmen and politicians, the newspapers and journals, and radio and television broadcasts are speaking so frankly and, to be honest, mercilessly, about what the Yugoslav comrades have not succeeded in doing. Consequently in this case it is by no means a question of the erroneousness of the theory and practice of self-management but of the need to improve it, the rectification of the errors of the past, and the full development of its potential.

Policy has never prevailed over the economy. That is axiomatic. Any violation of the economic laws by the party bureaucracy has led to further political errors, which has ultimately been reflected in the position of the LCY itself.

The weekly KOMUNIST was recently obliged to note with alarm that the number of party members is continuing to diminish—another sorry statistic. About 10 percent of Communists have surrendered their party cards for abuse of their official position and other violations of party ethics. About 30 percent have surrendered them simply for idleness and passiveness. The proportion of workers in the LCY is declining. Over the past year 70 percent of the country's primary party organizations failed to admit a single young person to their ranks.

"Fraternity and unity..." This slogan is constantly on the agenda. It hangs in the auditoriums of party conferences and meetings and flutters over the heads of the demonstrations of working people and strikers, who appeared in record breaking numbers last year.... Only by consolidating the party ranks is it possible to overcome the present economic and political crisis. Everyone understands that. "The year 1988 was a grave one for the Yugoslav working people, perhaps the gravest in recent years," Stipe Suvar, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium,stated. "New initiatives are being set in motion in the SFRY, and various trends and movements are offering all kinds of projects for the country's emergence from the state of crisis...."

The new year has set the country extraordinarily complex and grave tasks. But they are urgent. They must be resolved immediately.

Romania Celebrates National Day 30 December

PM0501101989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by own correspondent V. Volodin: "Labor Festival"]

[Excerpts] Bucharest—Socialist Romania is brightly attired. Party and state flags are fluttering proudly in the fresh winter wind. The streets and squares of cities and villages have been decorated with colorful panels. Placards bearing greetings from the RCP to the working people have been attached to buildings. The republic is celebrating its national holiday on the threshold of the new year, 30 December. [passage omitted]

Traditionally, 30 December is a labor festival, marked on the calendar as a working day. On this day the working people of Socialist Romania sum up and assess the the ground covered in socioeconomic and cultural

building. The past 2 decades have been particularly fruitful; the face of Romanian cities and villages having changed beyond recognition. The accumulated potential enables the Socialist Republic of Romania to move further along the path chosen on 30 December 1947, in order to implement the plans elaborated by the 13th RCP Congress.

PRAVDA on Romanian Economic Policies

PM0401144589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 88 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Vedrashko dispatch: "New Look. Today Is the 41st Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Romanian People's Republic"]

[Text] Bucharest—The whiteness of heavy snowfall, as it were, lends contrast to the multicolored picture of life in Romania today. There is the testing of democratic forms of management in labor collectives in everyday practice. And there is consistent deliverance from the fetters of foreign debt....

Decisions aimed at improving leadership of the entire national economy and improving the country's administrative-territorial structure were adopted at the National RCP Conference back in 1967. Those steps resulted in the strengthening of the state's organizational role and the abolition of a number of intermediate management tiers. The "one-tier" division into judets was adopted instead of the division into districts and regions. According to the Romanian press, this had an influence on the more harmonious distribution of productive forces and the accelerated development of the economic and social spheres, particularly in once backward regions.

Cities and communes (rural councils incorporating one or several villages with an average total population of 4,500) acquired great weight and significance. The coming into being of cities and communes as the basic administrative-territorial units of Romanian society and their development in every way capable of ensuring the optimum working and living conditions and the active involvement of citizens in resolving specific socioeconomic tasks were provided for. For a number of years this has also been served by such new political-economic organs as unified agro-industrial councils. Not being administrative-territorial units, they unite in accordance with the principle of economic expediency several communes or small urban-type settlements, one of which is in time to take shape as an agro-industrial center. There are to be approximately 550 such centers by the year 2000.

I recently visited one of the first such centers in the small city of Bailesti near Craiova, the chief city of Dolj Judet in the south of the country. This is what M. Petrescu, chairman of the unified council, said:

"The new organizational form enables us to do away with many traditional shortcomings, namely disunity and parochialism. We—that is, the council apparatus consisting of four people (chairman, chief economist, engineer-animal specialist, and agronomist)—possess information on the state of affairs as a whole on the farms and at the enterprises which come under the council. Accordingly, we are also endowed with rights to maneuver equipment and reallocate people to the most important sectors when necessary. We are directly involved in work and do not just sit in offices. That's not all. Being an organ which unites both urban and rural enterprises, we can better organize mutual assistance, and not on the basis of requests, wishes, and appeals but on the basis of strict executive discipline. It must also be said that, while not forming a party organization in the statutory sense, we maintain close ties with the party judet committee."

Industry has enjoyed development in many judets which were considered backward, and fixed capital has increased 600-900 percent. Production of industrial and agrarian output has increased many times over.

There are more and more judets where the per capita volume of economic activity—in money terms—is roughly equal to 80,000 lei annually. The task of getting all judets to achieve this level was set by the 13th RCP Congress. The press points out that it is running 2 years ahead of schedule, and the planned level will be reached in two judets in 1989 alone.

When people in Romania speak of the development of industry, they mean not only an increase in the number of enterprises but also their even distribution from the viewpoint of sectoral representation. At the present time each judet has enterprises of at least 12 of the 18 sectors representing the country's economy. The following fact also attests to the dynamic nature of the republic's economic development: In 1986 more than half the judets individually produced more output than the whole of Romania in the prewar years.

In 1987 each of 38 judets grew agricultural produce worth more than 4 billion lei. Only recently such an indicator could seldom be boasted of anywhere. A gradual departure from rationing in the distribution of food is now to be observed in many judets.

As a result of changes connected with the siting of new industrial enterprises in places where there were none previously, changes are also taking place in various social groups. Above all, the numbers of worker personnel are growing and now total 7.9 million in the country as a whole (out of the Romanian population of 23 million). As a result of the consistent equalization of the levels of industrial development in the judets, according to statistical data, the proportion of people employed in industry, transport, and the construction sphere had already begun in 1986 to predominate the rest of the economically active population in all the country's judets.

The changes taking place in the country today are aimed at the future. But Romanians also remember their past, treat history with respect, and consider many of their present-day achievements milestones on a path begun long ago.

Bulgaria, Albania Reach Economic Agreements

PM0401120589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Agreements Signed"]

[Text] Tirana, 23 Dec—ATA reports that an intergovernmental agreement on the development of economic, industrial, and technical cooperation between the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the People's Republic of Bulgaria for 1989 and a protocol on commodity turnover and payments between the two countries for next year have been signed here.

The documents were signed by N. Gjyzari, chairman of the Albanian State Planning Commission, and A. Lukanov, Bulgarian minister of foreign economic relations, who heads the Bulgarian governmental delegation at the talks.

Under the protocol on commodity turnover and payments, Albania will supply Bulgaria with nickel-iron and chromium ore, bauxite, electricity, machine-building and electrical equipment industry products, and tobacco while in turn importing from Bulgaria coke, nonferrous metals, cotton, machinery, equipment, and consumer goods. The documents signed also provide for the development of cooperation between the two countries in the mining industry, power generation, electronics, agriculture, and other sectors.

R. Alia, first secretary of the AWP Central Committee and chairman of the Albanian People's Assembly Presidium, met with A. Lukanov, Bulgarian minister of foreign economic relations. During the meeting the sides pointed to appreciable progress in the development of economic cooperation and reciprocal trade between Albania and Bulgaria in recent years. Discussing questions of cooperation among the Balkan states, R. Alia and A. Lukanov emphasized the need to activate efforts to create a climate of confidence and mutual understanding in the Balkans and to strengthen friendship among the Balkan states' peoples.

A. Lukanov was also received by A. Carcani, chairman of the Albanian Council of Ministers.

West Europe

Yakovlev-Led Delegation Leaves for FRG

LD0501092089 Moscow TASS in English 0844 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—A Soviet Communist Party delegation led by Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the Politbureau and secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, left Moscow for Frankfurt on the Main today at the invitation of the German Communist Party board to attend the regular 9th congress of the German Communist Party.

DKP's Mies Interviewed on Party's Plight

PM0401151189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 89 Second Edition p 4

[Interview with H. Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party (DKP), by own correspondent Ye. Grigoryev in Duesseldorf under the rubric "Our Interviews": "In Conditions of New Realities. German Communist Party Is Preparing for Ninth Congress"; date not given; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Excerpts] Duesseldorf, Jan—The German Communist Party [DKP] is preparing for its ninth congress. It will be held in Frankfurt-am-Main 6-8 January and will, as it were, open the new year calendar of FRG domestic policy events. District and local report and election conferences ended recently. They were marked by acute debates and clashes of opinions regarding the draft alternative "FRG-2000" program and the document "On the Position and Future Development of the DKP." We talked about all this with H. Mies, the party's chairman, in his small office at 79, Prinz-Georg-Strasse in Duesseldorf, home of the DKP Board. [passage omitted]

[Grigoryev] What could you say with regard to the bourgeois press' claims that the DKP's difficulties are linked with the restructuring that is under way in the USSR?

[Mies] That's a ridiculous claim. The district and local conferences showed that the root of the debate lies in unresolved questions and in the emergence of acute new problems facing the FRG worker movement. The revolutionary changes in the USSR and the new political thinking have a positive influence on our debates and on the renewal of our work and the party as a whole.

I will not hide the fact that the question of whether the DKP should develop further in new contemporary conditions and in the face of new problems by preserving the character of a worker-oriented party, or whether it should embark on a path of development that would to a certain extent divert it from that role, is one that has been raised in particular in the disputes.

But we are united in the view that our aim is still socialism and that we need to gear ourselves to actively struggling for the working people's interests and for peace. This path means discussing problems and permitting contentious opinions in the course of debates. That is why, in particular, the DKP Board decided to instruct the congress not to adopt the two aforementioned important documents but to extend the discussion of them over 1 year in order to adopt them then.

The DKP does not hide its current difficulties. After the previous congress in Hamburg the DKP's membership fell substantially. Of course, inexorable time is removing veterans from our ranks: They form approximately one-fourth of those who have quit. As for the rest, they have various reasons for leaving. A considerable proportion of them has left the party in disappointment at the lack of positive results in the parliamentary elections rather than because of disagreement with its policy. Some people have left in the belief that there are more chances of achieving successes in other political and social organizations. But the most important point here is that the DKP still enjoys influence among the masses, although this influence is only manifested in certain spheres, though they are neverthless important ones—for instance, the antiwar movement, and in enterprises and trade unions. [passage omitted]

Thatcher on 'Considerable' East-West Progress

PM0401145589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
3 Jan 89 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Margaret Thatcher: Cold War Times Gradually Receding"]

[Text] London—"The situation in the world is much safer thanks to the fact that the 'cold war' times are gradually receding into the past," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared in an interview with the ITV Television Network.

Analyzing East-West relations, the British prime minister pointed to the considerable progress achieved there. It is above all necessary, she emphasized, to note the tremendous contribution of M.S. Gorbachev to this most important process. "I believe that the Soviet leader is a politician who always keeps his word and devotes all his energy to implementing his plans."

M. Thatcher noted that the large-scale reforms being implemented in the USSR "conform with the interests of the whole world," and expressed hope for their successful conclusion.

At the same time, while noting "considerable progress in the human rights sphere in the USSR," M. Thatcher declared that supposedly "freedom is incompatible with the socialist system."

Touching on the recent crash of a U.S. airliner over the territory of Scotland, which resulted in the loss of many lives, M. Thatcher pointed out that broad international cooperation alone will make it possible to detect the criminals and bring them to justice.

Mitterrand's New Year Message Cited

PM0401145389 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
3 Jan 89 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Yu. Kovalenko dispatch: "Francois Mitterrand: "Growing Hope That a New Era Will Dawn"]

[Excerpts] Paris—"Peace and disarmament squeezed out war in 1988. There is growing hope that a new era will dawn, and may 1989 justify this hope." These were the closing words of French President F. Mitterrand's New Year's message to the French people. Addressing his compatriots, he spoke of the problems of inequality, injustice, racism, and of the environment, problems which exist in the country and in the world at large. [passage omitted]

"France is our motherland, and Europe is our future," F. Mitterrand noted in the message to all French people, in which he outlined his position on a broad range of issues. Paris is today setting the tone in West European integration, the elaboration of common financial, economic, and social policies by the EEC countries, and the enhancement of supranational institutions.

It must be noted that our own attitude toward West European building is different, more realistic. This resulted, in particular, in the conclusion of an agreement between the EEC and CEMA. We are in favor of sensibly combining the integration processes in the West and the East of our continent. "United" Europe will start playing a growing role in world affairs and will become an important partner of the socialist community, both in the trade and economic sphere and in the solution of global problems. Especially since France is against West Europe's transformation into a grouping isolated from the socialist world. The alignment of the two Europes, F. Mitterrand recently emphasized, is "the grand task" of the late 20th century.

The "alignment of the two Europes" is one of the goals of the galvanization of France's foreign policy vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. Foreign Minister R. Dumas singles out in France' new Eastern policy the avenue of continuing the process of talks on reduction of armed forces and conventional arms in Europe and cultural, scientific, and economic cooperation. This galvanization is linked primarily with the changed political climate, Moscow's new approach toward global problems, and its desire to de-ideologize international relations and to firmly establish the priority of universal values.

In these conditions, Europe is becoming a zone for collaboration between the USSR and France. Traditions are often as strong as habits, and our countries stood at the sources of detente and initiated the holding of the CSCE.

The implementation of the "common European home" concept could become one of the central avenues for cooperation between the two Europes. Judging by his last statement, F. Mitterrand perceives its implementation as an important task. It is possible to imagine the European continent and all the countries in it, the French president recently said in Moscow, as a new community linked by new relations within whose framework everyone retains his identity but all cooperate for the sake of coincident goals.

This is why Europe will certainly be the focal point of talks to be held during M. Gorbachev's visit to France in the first half of 1989. The Paris press reports that the Soviet leader is likely to address the European Parliament.

Will France and the Soviet Union manage to play the role of chief architects of the "common European home?" "In my view, yes," was the reply given to me by famous French writer Herve Bazin. "The split of Europe which has a common history and culture is totally absurd. The iron curtain which still hangs in the minds of many people and politicians must be demolished. I hope that 1989 will be the year of a breakthrough, especially if the reduction of nuclear arsenals is followed by cutbacks in conventional arms."

But in order to achieve this, both East and West must overcome their "group" interests, go beyond the framework of interbloc relations, sacrifice something, give up reciprocal claims, and place the emphasis on things that unite us and not on things that divide us. Finally, they must have more faith in each other.

Latin America & Caribbean

Cuban Troops To Return From Angola 10 Jan

LD0501074289 Moscow TASS in English 0736 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Havana January 5 TASS—The first of 3,000 Cuban internationalist soldiers in Angola will return home on January 10th, said Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Wednesday during a meeting marking the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

Revealing its goodwill Cuba signed an agreement to settle the situation in south-western Africa and committed itself to start withdrawing troops before April 1st this year, when the U.N. Security Council Resolution 435 is due to come into force.

Cuban Achievements Viewed on National Day

PM0501090389 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jan 89 First Edition p 3

[Report by TASS correspondent A. Kanishchev and APN correspondent V. Neklesov: "Today Is Cuba's National Holiday—Liberation Day: Victors' Revolution"]

[Excerpt] Havana, 31 Dec—[Passage omitted] The slogan "Defense and production" has become popular in Cuba recently. Placards stating this can be seen at any enterprise and in any corner of the country. And this slogan reflects two interrelated tasks which Cuban society is resolving today. Yes, the first socialist Latin American state is not giving up its vigilance. For decades U.S. imperialism has been carrying out subversive activity against the Cuban people. The Cubans remember how they repulsed attempts to overthrow the people's power by force, how they resisted the economic blockade.

Production efficiency is of priority importance in the country's socioeconomic development. Cuba, relying on its potential, wants to achieve the highest standard possible in this sphere. It is doing this in difficult conditions. At the same time its successes in public health and education and in providing the population with foodstuffs and industrial goods are well known. Over recent years the number of doctors in the country has increased noticeably and important new public health facilities have been built. The plans for building housing, kindergartens, schools, and other social and consumer facilities have been of priority importance in development. By 1991 Cuba plans to build 20,000 apartments annually. These are the successes of people's Cuba. But they could be much more weighty.

J. Enrique Mendoza, [member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and director of the Cuban Institute of the Workers Movement and the Socialist Revolution], recalled this:

"The main concern today is the Cuban Communist Party's policy to rectify the mistakes and negative tendencies permitted in the past. This policy originated at our party's third congress. Its aim is to reconstruct the economy and improve the economic mechanisms for managing the national economy. In our opinion, however, socialism needs to be built not only with the assistance of economic mechanisms. Serious political work is essential specifically with the working people and with all Cuba's population. This is mobilizing work directed at raising the masses' political and economic awareness.

"The picture would be incomplete," our interlocutor stressed, "if I did not mention the most important role that assistance from the USSR played in setting up the socialist structure. Without Soviet assistance there would not be the development in genetics, biotechnology, and robot technology of which the Cuban people are proud. Today our country, which only yesterday was considered backward, is carrying out work in the sphere of computer technology, software, and atomic power. These achievements are a direct result of the events which took place 30 years ago."

Ortega Urges C. American Nonaggression Pact

PM0401160189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jan 89 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Daniel Ortega's Initiatives"]

[Text] Managua, 2 Jan—President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua has proposed that the meeting of Central

American presidents to be held in El Salvador in mid-January discuss the question of turning the region into a zone free of foreign military presence. The El Salvador meeting, he said, speaking at a rally, must also sign an agreement on nonaggression by Central American countries against each other.

The Nicaraguan leader noted that it is incumbent upon leaders of Central American states to act to establish genuine democracy and peace in the region. One of the items on the Central American summit meeting's agenda must be the question of joint activity by the region's countries on observance of human rights. The Nicaraguan leader proposed that this activity be implemented under the auspices of the United Nations, the International Red Cross, and a number of international organizations.

Nicaragua's president announced a decision by the Republic's government to extend until 31 January this year the unilateral suspension of offensive operations by the Sandinist People's Army against forces of the armed counterrevolution. This step is aimed at ensuring that the contras are given yet another opportunity to lay down their arms and join peaceful political life in the country. D. Ortega called on the United States to cease its support for counterrevolutionary formations and to help establish peace in Nicaragua.

The president declared that there is still a danger of Washington's hostile policy toward Nicaragua hardening. Therefore the Republic's main task in the new year is to consolidate its defense capability. The contra forces are crushed at present. Nobody can guarantee, however, that the United States will not make another attempt to suffocate the Sandinist revolution using mercenary gangs, he emphasized.

Appraising the situation in the international arena, the Nicaraguan leader emphasized that last year was distinguished by great achievements in the cause of detente and the strengthening of peace. The Soviet Union and the United States signed some very important agreements on nuclear disarmament. The USSR made a decision to withdraw its limited contingent of troops from Afghanistan. Optimism is aroused by the process of a peaceful settlement in southern Africa and by Vietnam's constructive stance on the solution of the Cambodia problem. D. Ortega noted that the United Nations plays a major role in the cause of settling regional conflicts and improving the international situation as a whole.

Political & Social

Editorial Urges Full Commitment to Restructuring

PM0501111789 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
3 Jan 89 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "I Am Personally Involved. A Communist's Responsibility Is a Crucial Factor for Success in the Struggle for Restructuring"; first three paragraphs consist of PRAVDA lead-in followed by extracts from two readers' letters]

[Text] To start the ball rolling in our dicussion let us cite two extracts from letters that the PRAVDA editorial office has received.

"A great deal is now being said about pluralism, openness, and diversity of opinions. I am only sorry that what I consider to be the equally important criteria of party-mindedness are often left out on the sidelines out of the limelight. Such criteria as, for instance, party responsibility and party discipline. Isn't that why we somehow aren't very surprised today when we hear about particular officials' resistance to restructuring processes or even about some party members' participation in rallies and illegal assemblies with a clearly nationalist slant and in strikes?..."

"Some of our fellow party members should be reminded that democracy does not cancel out principledness and does not relieve them of their obligation to fulfill the requirements of the CPSU Statutes. And they should be reminded of the fact that it is now high time not only to display strength of conviction in the struggle for restructuring and set a personal example, but also to exhibit all the organizational and fighting qualities characteristic of Communists."

As we can see, the authors of these letters—both V. Nikitin, an engineer from Kaliningrad, and I. Batalov, a veteran from Kiev,—are concerned by the same problem—the problem of Communists' personal responsibility for the success of restructuring and for ensuring that the precise and definite nature of party stances is not lost in the new and very difficult situation in which the country is living and in the growing diversity of opinions and approaches, and that the party line being implemented through its members' concrete actions and deeds is firmly upheld.

Voices can be heard speaking on this from the rostrums of report and election party conferences. The theme of a Communist's personal responsibility for the success of the common cause—a theme which has never lost its topicality—is today, in conditions of the radical restructuring of all spheres of our life, assuming particular topicality and acuteness.

Glasnost and democratization, the course toward renouncing administrative-edict methods have awoken the country and provided an outlet for the deep-running springs of masses' social and political initiative. This is a guarantee of the irreversibility of the revolutionary transformations initiated by the party. At the same time we can see that the rapid introduction of millions of people to active public life is also bringing to the surface a great deal of demagogic scum and revealing problems and unhealthy phenomena in the economy, interethnic relations, and social life that have been hushed up and hidden deep inside for decades. Hence the complex pattern of sentiments and, at times, the perplexity, mental confusion, and unwarranted illusions. Some people are reluctant to understand that a new phase has come about in restructuring—the phase of strenuous practical work—and are continuing to hold endless rallies. Others who are still held captive by stereotypes tenaciously cling to the willful style of issuing directives which was developed in former years, disguising it slightly with words and slogans "in the light of restructuring."

But the times demand clarity. The implementation of the economic and political reforms mapped out by the party has entered a crucial stage. This exceptionally important and complex process is raising anew and highlighting questions of party responsibility and discipline, forcing every Communist to display, as the first letter said, all their organizational and fighting qualities, through real action rather than just talking about it.

The country knows by name many party members who have become true enthusiasts and "engineers" of restructuring. Through their energy, persistence, and responsible attitude to the cause, the bastions of inertia and bureaucratism are being smashed and new trails blazed in the economy and in the sociopolitical sphere. During the tragic hours and days of the tremendous disaster that struck Armenia, it was Communists above all who took charge of the work to rescue people and eliminate the consequences of the earthquake and who displayed supreme responsibility and selfless loyalty to party duty. People in the republic talk with great respect about Norik Muradyan, first secretary of Spitakskiy Party Raykom, and Misak Mkrtchyan, leader of Leninakan's Communists, and other party members, who were exemplars of civic spirit and courage and who by their actions have earned the right to be called true leaders of the masses.

Life confirms over and over the old truism: True party-mindedness is revealed in actions and actions alone. One must admit, however, that not all party members—and not all party organizations—are displaying a readiness to struggle uncompromisingly for the implementation of the ideas of restructuring. A enduring topic in the press to this day is, for instance, that of departmental-bureaucratic "games" whereby decisions to cut back managerial tiers are in effect sabotaged in particular ministries and regions by means of various machinations. Alarm signals from local level also indicate how many obstacles are erected by various organs—once again contrary to the laws, moreover—to the development of the cooperative movement and the lease contract in industry and in the countryside. Yet all these "organs" are headed as a rule

by Communists and they each have their party organization. The following question automatically arises: Are party members fully aware in these situations of their personal responsibility for retarding the common cause and for the adopted decisions "marking time" as a result of their excessive concern for departmental or corporative group interests?

V.I. Lenin taught us that only a person who carries out all his work among the masses truly in the spirit of party decisions is worthy of the title of party member. Can a Communist who has resigned himself to the fact that his enterprise or sector, even under the new conditions, is working not so much for the consumer as for the "gross output" indicator and for filling warehouses, accept this title with a clear conscience? How many enterprises there still are like that in our country!

Is it really permissible for a party member to connive to disunite people on ethnic grounds, not to mention antisocialist extremist attacks and attempts to kindle interethnic enmity? Yet there are such "party members"—if one can call them that—and in some areas they virtually set the tone. Alas, examples of this can be found in both Armenia and Azerbaijan, in the Baltic republics, and in a number of other places. It is clear that there can be no compromise with such people or with those who are directly or indirectly involved in corruption, abuses, and other violations of the laws and norms of our life. Social and political irresponsibility is incompatible with party-mindedness.

The country is on its way. The first days of the New Year are going by. The first days of a year in which a great deal of what was mapped out by the resolutions of the 19th all-union party conference is to be implemented. Let us remember that the scale and depth of the accomplishments to come also presupposes the appropriate level of responsibility for their implementation. We must work stubbornly and persistently and put our hearts into it, and not allow room for indifference, unbelief, weak will, and laziness in thought and deed. We must move the cause of restructuring forward step by step without halting in the face of difficulties and without becoming flustered over failures, but by analyzing and removing the reasons for these failures—that is the key to victory.

Reader Complains of Letter Interception

PM0401135989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 89 Morning Edition p 6

[Letter from reader D. Shesterkin under the rubric "Letters...Not for Publication": "Letter to BBC"]

[Text] I have sent several letters to the BBC and VOA. Have they stopped jamming the two radio stations? They have. That means they are not banning them. What is not banned is permitted. That is what we have been told for all to hear. Everything would seem to be clear. Not one of my letters has reached its destination or been returned. If the letters had reached their destination, I would have known from the broadcast. They list all the letters they have received.

Not so long ago there was a program on the BBC about the work of the Soviet mail. The presenter said that he was prepared to supply British mail service receipts for mail items which had left the country although the addressees in the Soviet Union had not received them and nothing had been returned. A direct line was set up on this program. You could telephone to London and talk with the presenters. There were a great many telephone calls and everyone complained that they had sent letters, registered letters with notification documents. But neither the former nor the latter [as published] arrived or were returned, and that includes the notification documents. As for simple letters, we cannot prove their existence: Receipts are not issued for such letters.

If the loss of letters addressed abroad is just a matter of chance, these cases are being repeated somewhat too often.

[Signed] D. Shesterkin, Krivoy Rog.

'Riot' in Tashkent Market Caused by Afghans

LD0401180389 Tashkent Domestic Service in Russian 0130 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] On 1 January hooligan elements from among the Afghan citizens staying in Tashkent, in a state of alcoholic and narcotic intoxication, unleashed a riot in the region of the Oktyabrskiy kolkhoz market. They threw stones at pedestrians and vehicles passing by. As a result of the disorder a 6-month-old child was accidentally killed. Eight Soviet citizens and 11 Afghans received bodily harm of varying severity and were hospitalized. The disorder was halted through the efforts of militiamen and the town public. The situation is under control. The violators of Soviet laws and moral norms will receive the appropriate punishment.

(?It is essential to state) that what happened cannot affect the relations of friendship between the Soviet and Afghan peoples, which are tending toward further improvement and strengthening.

Three Die From Injuries

LD0501070989 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and STROITELNAYA GAZETA report on the incident which took place during the evening of 1 January in Tashkent. A group of Afghan students, roused by alcoholic drinks and drugs, caused a brawl there. True, internal affairs officials succeeded in getting the situation promptly under control. However, 16 people had to be hospitalized, including 7 Afghans. Three people have already died from injuries.

Reporting this, the correspondent of STROITELNAYA GAZETA, (?Zainudinov), believes that the tragic incident in Tashkent cannot influence the relations of friendship between the Soviet and Afghan peoples.

Yazov Visits Armenia; Rebuilding Efforts Continue

Yazov Meets Servicemen in Towns

LD0401194189 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Army General Dmitriy Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, USSR minister of defense, and a member of the CPSU Central Committee Commission on Eliminating the Aftermath of the Earthquake in Armenia, was in the Armenian SSR 3-4 January. He visited the towns of Kirovakan, Spitak, Stepabavan, and Leninakan and a number of villages which suffered as a result of the natural calamity. He met servicemen who are participating in the work to eliminate the aftermath of the earthquake and with the population. He examined urgent tasks on speeding up the process of restoration work jointly with representatives of local party, soviet bodies, and economic organizations.

In Spitak, at a raykom session, he discussed tasks connected with the regional water supply to the population, the construction of temporary housing, and other work in in which units of servicemen are taking an active part.

With the USSR defense minister on his trip were Sarkisyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, and Army General Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Yazov Arrives in Yerevan

NC0501123489 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Army General Dmitriy Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission on earthquake relief, and USSR minister of defense, arrived in Yerevan yesterday. On the same day, a meeting was held at the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee attended by Yazov; Suren Arutyunyan, Armenian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; USSR Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Batalin; and others. At the meeting, issues related to expediting the earthquake relief work were examined.

Solovyev at Leninakan Building Site

LD0401163489 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Summary] Leningrad builders will construct a large housing estate—160,000 square meters of housing—in Leninakan. The three to four story buildings will be constructed of reinforced concrete panels and they will also house three secondary schools, three kindergartens, a shopping center and a hospital complex. "The future building site was visited today by Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Oblast committee of the party. Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armeniam, accompanied him."

Experts Discuss Rebuilding Towns

NC0401232089 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Prominent experts from across the country and the republic are carefully examining plans for reconstructing devastated residential areas to select the best among the proposals submitted at the conference of state [word indistinct] urban planners being held at the architects' house in the capital. In Leninakan, the houses to be built will have two, three or a maximum of four stories. Much attention is being paid to preserving historical and architectural characteristics of [word indistinct]. Building numerous and [word indistinct] shops on the first floors of the planned residential buildings is being considered. The new Leninakan that will thus be built will [words indistinct]. Since multistory buildings will not be erected, the city area will be enlarged. [passage indistinct] and the city will be surrounded by a green belt. Kindergartens, schools, and hospitals will be built first. These will have one or two stories. The future Leninakan is being designed for a population of 250,000 to 280,000.

In Kirovakan, it is planned to build mainly [words indistinct] two-story residential buildings. There, it is planned to (?build the buildings) with [word indistinct] and (?tufa rock) thus preserving the traditions of Armenian architecture.

The case of Spitak is more complex. That city is located at the center of a (?fault) and that is why it was damaged so severely in the earthquake. Geologists and seismologists agree that the city must be relocated. Work on the master plan for Spitak has already been completed. It has been decided to rebuild the city on an amphitheater-like site to the west of the old city. Building Spitak as a small, green town of mainly two-story residential buildings on lots of [word indistinct] type is being considered. The city will be organically linked to the other towns in the region, which have remained more or less intact. Spitak's industrial character will also be preserved and the town will be linked to the [word indistinct] that bypasses the city.

Major work is also under way on plans to rebuild Stepanavan and other population centers damaged by the disaster.

Commission Updates Death Toll

NC0501110089 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] At yesterday's meeting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission, (?statistics) related to the improvement of conditions for the earthquake victims and

the removal of the effects of the natural disaster during the period after the earthquake were discussed, and the principal problems were identified. The meeting was chaired by Yuriy Batalin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Also present was Fadey Sarkisyan, chairman of the Armenian Council of Ministers.

It was noted that, in addition to other work, efforts to pull victims from the rubble are continuing. In the last 3 days, 26 bodies have been removed from the rubble, bringing the total number of people pulled out to 39,735. As of January, the total number of dead stood at 24,888. So far 30,397 people have received medical treatment. Of these, 11,535 were hospitalized and 15,562 received [words indistinct]. Of the people admitted to hospitals, 5,020 have been discharged. At present, 3,611 people are receiving treatment in medical institutions.

[Words indsitinct] is waging a battle to preclude the spread of epidemic and (?intestinal) diseases and [word indistinct]. The situation in the earthquake zone does not give rise to concern from an epidemiological standpoint and is being supervised [words indistinct]. Psychiatric services are being expanded. The main [word indistinct] institute in Yerevan has set up a center for the psychiatric treatment of earthquake victims.

The evacuation of mothers, children and [word indistinct] from the disaster zone is continuing in an organized manner. The number of people evacuated so far totals 109,696, of whom 70,210 have been settled outside the republic in sanatoriums and resthomes around the country.

Referring to the assistance and [word indistinct] provided by the entire Soviet Union and by foreign countries, the commission noted that so far R719 million have been deposited in the special bank account set up for this purpose and that R6,831,000 have been received in foreign currency. Various industrial enterprises from all union republics have sent 6,343 units of (?special equipment), [word indistinct], excavators, [word indistinct] and automobiles. Of the 70 enterprises which make [word indistinct], 36 have already been rebuilt and are in operation. Three large (?machinery) enterprises in the earthquake zone are operating at 30 to 40 percent of capacity, although railway freight delivery and unloading capacity is [word indistinct] as envisaged by the commission. As of 31 December, 36,520 railcars carrying various supplies had been dispatched to Armenia.

The commission also heard a report by the representative of USSR Foreign Ministry about international cooperation in the reconstruction and rebuilding of devastated (?cities). Plans are being prepared in cooperation with East Germany, Japan, Italy, France, and other countries. At present, builders, engineers, and other specialists from 14 countries are working in the six rayons affected by the earthquake.

Suren Arutyunyan, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo Commission and first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party, also took part in the meeting.

Azerbaijan, Armenian Leaderships' Citizens Appeal

PM0501110389 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 89 Second Edition p 2

["Address by the Azerbaijan and Armenian Communist Party Central Committees and Azerbaijan SSR and Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidiums and Councils of Ministers to Citizens Who Have Left Their Permanent Places of Residence"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text]On 4 January the republic press in the Azerbaijan SSR and Armenian SSR published an address by the Azerbaijan and Armenian Communist Party Central Committees and Azerbaijan SSR and Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidiums and Councils of Ministers to citizens who have left their permanent places of residence. The text follows:

Dear brothers and sisters,

In these grievous and distressing days, the Soviet people and benevolent people all over the world are doing all they can to help the people who suffered from the earthquake in Armenia and to heal the wounds caused by the natural disaster. Assistance is coming from the nearest neighbors in the Transcaucasus, from all over our vast multinational country, and from everywhere on the planet.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev came to Armenia to share the profound grief of the sufferers and their relatives and people close to them, and to establish specific measures for eliminating the consequences of the natural disaster. His talks and meetings aroused the confidence that they are not alone in their plight and that the pain and concern of the Armenian people are the pain and concern of all Soviet people.

The Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples have been living side by side for centuries; this is part of history. During this whole period they have always shared their joy and sorrow and salt and bread, and eliminated the difficulties together.

But unfortunately, even during these nationwide days of grief, extremists, provocateurs, and shameless and unscrupulous people can be found who incite the Azerbaijanis and Armenians to ethnic hostility and enmity. Our divisions are only in the interests of those who are against restructuring and democracy. They want to slow the progress towards social justice and renewal of life of these republics. Families have been forced to leave their native lands. The number of those who have gone to

Azerbaijan from Armenia and from Azerbaijan to Armenia has acquired vast proportions. Unexpected difficulties have come about. It is necessary to feed and resettle thousands of people. Children need schools, adults need work, and everyone needs peace and calm.

Even if man is momentarily helpless against the forces of nature, we must subdue the forces of interethnic division.

The party and soviet bodies of Azerbaijan and Armenia are implementing consistent measures for improving the situation in the region. We must not allow national passions to heat up and dominate common sense. The way to eliminate the conflict which has arisen is not to be isolated from each other and oppose each other, but to have mutual respect for common interests and to reconcile with each other.

These days rayon leaders are jointly establishing measures to make it possible for refugees to return to their homes.

Dear comrades! We appeal to you to reject decisively the calls of irresponsible people for disorder and interethnic hostility, to stop spreading rumors which create panic and inciting passions. Lay aside all hesitation and doubt. Your neighbors, friends, and your work and school comrades are looking to you. Those who plot against the fraternity of peoples, those who have made families leave their homes and persecute people according to their ethnic identity will be punished in complete accordance with the law. You can be sure that advocates of disorder and interethnic hostility will not be able to escape responsibility.

The tradition of our peoples teaches us that when a disaster takes place, grievances must be replaced by understanding and unity. We give assurances regarding the safety and protection of the constitutional rights of citizens and their return to their previous places of residence and work. We all must listen to the appeal of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. We must do all we can to quickly return to their native homes those who had to leave their permanent residences.

Dear citizens, you are longing to work on your own soil, are nostalgic for the native mountains and valleys; your gardens are waiting for the warmth of your hands. While appealing to you, we hope that you will show reason, restraint, and a high civic responsibility, make the right decision, and that with peace and a clear and open heart you will return to your own homes, your native homes and work collectives.

'Measures' Against Azerbaijan, Tolyatti Criminals

PM0501101589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 7

[TASS report: "The USSR MVD Press Bureau Reports"]

[Text] Law-enforcement organs are taking decisive measures to stop the illegal activities of machinators and to strengthen socialist legality in the national economy.

Thus, militia workers have recently exposed a criminal group of bribetakers which was active for a long time in the system of the Azerbaijan SSR Ministry of Motor Transport. Its members would collect money to organize unsanctioned rallies, would not let motor transport operate their routes, and would put pressure on drivers who wished to work. In addition, they would force the dismissal of persons of other nationalities. Criminal proceedings have been instituted in this case, and the bribetakers have been arrested. They have been charged with accepting gifts totaling approximately R100,000. The investigation is being conducted by a group of workers of the USSR Prosecutor's Office and the USSR MVD.

An investigation is continuing into the criminal activity of embezzlers who, as the preliminary investigation proved, obtained extremely scarce motor vehicle spare parts from other parts of the country in return for large bribes via leading workers of the Volga Motor Vehicle Plant Technical Supply Department (Tolyatti) and the Azerbaijan Ministries of Trade and Consumer Services and Industrial Construction and redistributed them in the republic, making thousands of rubles in unearned income.

Sokolov Speaks at Belorussia Anniversary Meeting

LD3012203988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] The Belorussian capital of Minsk is decorated brightly and ceremonially just now as befits the New Year. The republic is celebrating the 70th anniversary since the day when the Belorussian SSR and Belorussian Communist Party were formed. A ceremonial sitting of the republic's Communist Party Central Committee and Supreme Soviet was devoted to this, in which representatives of party, soviet and public organizations took part. It happened today. Comrade Sokolov, first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee gave a report. He noted that the republic is rightly proud of its history. It has known everything along the way—the joy of victories and the bitterness of adversities—but the working people of Belorussia, hand in hand with the other peoples in our multiethnic motherland, always looked with optimism to the future and continued to build a new lifestyle.

The participants mostly used the festive rostrum for businesslike discussion of problems in the economy and other spheres of life. Seventy years of history testifies to the fact that there is a foundation in the Belorussian SSR to work better, more efficiently and to full capacity. There is also a wholesome basis for the further development of democracy and openness. Everything is being done to restore historical justice, for the civil and party rehabilitation of the victims of Stalin's repressions, and for the revival of the national cultural legacy. At the same time, the Belorussian people have always been and

still are an active advocate of goodneighborly interethnic relations on a basis of mutual respect and unity in extending a helping hand to each other.

Representatives of Moscow and Lengingrad, and delegations from the neighboring Ukraine and Lithuanian SSR's and Smolensk Oblast came to congratulate the working people of the republic on the anniversary. A delegation from the Polish People's Republic, led by Comrade Czyrek, Politburo member and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, also took part in the ceremonial sitting. He read out a letter of greeting from Comrade Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of Poland's State Council. Comrade Shevchenko, chairman of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade Astrauskas, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade Karabasov, secretary of the Moscow Gorkom; Comrade Gerasimov, first secretary of the Leningrad Gorkom; and Comrade Vlasenko, first secretary of the Smolensk Obkom spoke at the sitting. They warmly congratulated the Communists and all working people of the republic on the anniversary, and wished them success in what they have planned on the roads to restructuring.

Leningrad Reveler Maimed by Explosive Device

PM0501093389 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Jan 89 Second Edition p 6

[N. Gusarov article: "Explosions in the Streets"]

[Text] Brazen crimes were committed in the city on the Neva on New Year's eve. Some of the criminals have been arrested, the rest are being sought.

Popular gatherings are traditionally organized in the streets of Leningrad on New Year's eve. This year was no exception—on floodlit Nevskiy Prospect and Dvortsovaya Ploshchad alone 250,000 people saw in the New Year to the strains of numerous bands. Another 150,000 appeared on other streets in the city. But among the half-million Leningraders there was a villain...

"Our city has never known such a vile crime," said A.A. Kurkov, chief of the Main Administration for Internal Affairs of the Leningrad Oblispolkom and Gorispolkom. A father and son were among a crowd of revelers on the corner of Ploshchad Vosstaniya and Nevskiy Prospekt. They had quite recently suffered a misfortune, they had buried a wife and mother, and the friendship between the father had grown particularly strong during that painful time. Suddenly a fair-haired young man wearing a green jacket ran past them and threw an unidentified explosive device at their feet. A powerful explosion occurred...

The boy was blown to one side while the father sustained very serious injuries. The victim was taken to the Military Medical Academy Clinic, where both his feet had to be amputated.

Internal affairs organs are carrying out a massive investigation into the crime. A large quantity of information has been gathered and the inquiry posseses hundreds of statements by witnesses. However, every additional piece of evidence is of great significance. It is quite possible that visitors to Leningrad from elsewhere were in the vicinity at that moment. If anyone saw the criminal or witnessed the incident we would ask them to report this either to the nearest police station or the Leningrad Gorispolkom Main Administration for Internal Affairs. The telephone number for Leningraders is 02, for inhabitants of other population centers 278-37-18.

...That same night the sturdy column of a streetlight on Primorskiy Prospekt was bent into an arc by a powerful explosion. The malefactors were tracked down almost immediately. A sailor discharged into the reserve and two 20-year-old pals—a university student and a student at a public catering college—decided to arrange a firework display. They found an explosive device, attached it to the column, and lit the homemade fuse... There were, fortunately, no casualties.

All three have been charged with malicious hooliganism.

Lithuanian Liberty League Program Published

LD0501104889 Vilnius in Lithuanian to North America 0100 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Summary] The draft program of the Lithuanian Liberty League has been published in MAZOJI LIETUVA, a publication of the Klaipeda Council of the Sajudis Reform Movement.

The Lithuanian Liberty League is regarded by society as the most radical of all movements in Lithuania which sprung up recently in the new conditions.

Although the league was set up in 1978, the platform of the Lithuanian Liberty League has never been made public. The objectives of the league are outlined in the draft program, which in the main are:

1. To enhance the consciousness of the Lithuanian nation;

2. To enhance the idea of an independent Lithuania.

However, because of the variety of new ideas and their rapid development, only two aspects distinguish the Lithuanian Liberty League from some other movements. These are that the league demands that Lithuania be granted the right to have a professional army by the Lithuanian constitution and to abolish the internal passport system which is regarded as political.

All other ideas such as the Lithuanian citizenship, status of the Lithuanian language, links with abroad, the truth about our history, restrictions on movement, and freedom of all political prisoners have already been declared by other public movements, and some of them have already been implemented.

New Lithuanian Periodical Published

LD0401141189 Vilnius in English to North America 2300 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Summary] A totally new periodical, GIMTASIS ZODIS, has been published and is intended for a broad circle of readers, mainly students and lecturers in the humanities.

Officials Comment on New Curbs on Export Goods

Customs Official Boyarov Interview

PM0501114589 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Jan 89 Second Edition p 6

[Interview with V.K. Boyarov, first deputy chief of the USSR Council of Ministers State Customs Control Main Administration, by N. Dombkovskiy: "Customs, 1 February 1989: The USSR Council of Ministers Has Ratified New Regulations for the Export of Goods in Great Demand"—date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] At the editorial office's request, V.K. Boyarov, first deputy chief of the USSR Council of Ministers State Customs Control Main Administration, describes the new regulations.

[Dombkovskiy] First of all, Vitaliy Konstantinovich, what innovations are envisaged by the customs regulations which are going into effect on 1 February next?

[Boyarov] They can be divided into three sections, the first two of which affect citizens visiting the USSR on private business, that is, as tourists and guests. The first section prohibits that category of people from taking out of our country the following types of goods: coffee, caviar and salmon roe, televisions, refrigerators, washing machines and sewing machines, and children's clothes and footwear.

The second section, which lists several dozen electronic and electrical appliances— microwave ovens, vacuum cleaners, coffee grinders, oil fired radiators, and so forth, a detailed list would take up too much space—sets a duty of between 20 percent and 100 percent on the export of such goods.

The third section allows anyone leaving the country to take other industrial goods up to a value of R100 duty free. Preferential terms are provided for Soviet citizens leaving on a foreign business trip. In particular, they can take goods even from the first list within the prescribed limits.

[Dombkovskiy] Why are the new regulations being introduced? There have been suggestions recently that this is nothing more than retaliation against the actions of other states which have introduced similar regulations. Is that the case?

[Boyarov] That is absolutely untrue. There is no question at all of a "customs war." Our measures are aimed at protecting the interests of consumers within the country. Just look: In the first 9 months of last year 500,000 television sets, 206,000 washing machines, and 100 tonnes of coffee were taken out of the USSR. Furthermore, all these goods had been bought in the USSR for Soviet currency and many of our consumers were left without goods which, unfortunately, remain in short supply. The protective customs measures were taken to stem this flood. I do not mean to suggest that they will operate permanently. It is not impossible that the lists will be revised even before the new regulations expire—that is, before January 1990.

As for our fraternal countries which have adopted similar measures, they also acted in the interests of their peoples to preserve an adequate commodity supply for domestic needs.

Incidentally, I should like to emphasize that the new procedure affects only noncommercial exchange—private trips by private individuals. Completely different regulations apply in international trade. Just like people who come to our country on official matters, businessmen enjoy certain privileges.

[Dombkovskiy] Don't you think that customs barriers are not the best way of supplying our market with high quality goods?

[Boyarov] Of course not, there can be doubt about that. The main factor, of course, is industry. Sadly, the industrial backlog and simple mismanagement leading to an unfavorable redistribution of goods for our people force us to take these steps. But I am sure that in a few years these measures will be unnecessary. But the USSR customs service faces new tasks in the very near future. As is well known, we are moving toward a period of decentralized production. Soon virtually every enterprise will be able to have direct ties with its foreign partners. Our economic managers do not have enough experience and the customs will have to protect the interests of the consumer and the country. A decision has already been taken on the so-called "harmonization" of our service. This will help us speak to our partners from other countries in a common "customs" language, as it were, and will help to protect against all kinds of abuses in the international trade sphere. Customs tariffs have always been and remain a reliable instrument for protecting the country's interests.

TV Interviews Boyarov

LD0401212289 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 4 Jan 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A few days ago the USSR Council of Ministers adopted a decision on regulating the export of some consumer goods. Our correspondent asked Vitaliy Konstantinovich Boyarov, first deputy head of the Main Administration of State Customs Control, to comment on this decision:

[Boyarov, State Customs Service Counsellor first rank, identified by caption] As a professional I see this document as useful. I share the existing point of view that with a high level of development of industry and—and this is the main thing—a saturated market we probably would not have needed such an extensive list of goods. By the way, the Council of Ministers decision envisions that after a certain period and an analysis of the situation we are to produce appropriate proposals as to the usefulness of retaining this list and for adjusting it perhaps with a view to reducing it should our market become richer.

[Commentator German Sedov, identified by caption] Is this not a rataliatory measure for the new customs control procedures introduced by our neighboring socialist countries?

[Boyarov] In the conception of our relations with the friendly countries the question of retaliatory measures does not exist at all. The introduction of these restrictions in our country is caused by the fact that we have no goods and we have to retain the goods for our own consumers. Our Czech friends introduced these measures because they had an abundance of goods but only for the size of their population which is on the order of 15 million people.

In 1989, sorry, in 1988 something on the order of 500,000 television sets, 206,000 washing machines and 100 tons of coffee—and we buy coffee with hard curency—were exported from the Soviet Union. Export of sturgeon caviar has now been banned. Last year, in 1988, only those unlawful attempts to export caviar uncovered by the customs involved something on the order of 2 tons of caviar. That is perceptible. After all, now caviar in our country is worth its weight in gold.

[Sedov] Could you tell me, please, if this decision equally applies to tourists, to business visitors and to foreigners permanently working in our country?

[Boyarov] Only to foreign tourists and individuals coming by invitation for personal reasons.

I would like to emphasize another idea. Although these figures appear large, in comparison with our production volumes they are not all that great. Therefore I would not like the industrial ministries, which very much insisted that such decision be adopted, to delude themselevs that customs measures can put an end to the existing shortages in the manufacture of goods for the population. [video shows interview in an office; unidentifiable newspaper with an article entitled Restrictions Introduced; booklets entitled Socialist Customs Control in Russian and German]

Officials Comment on Restrictions

PM0401153789 Moscow TRUD in Russian 3 Jan 89 p 3

[Article by S. Aleksandrov under the "Topical Theme" rubric: "Restrictions Introduced"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution regulating the export of certain consumer goods.

From 1 February this year through the end of 1990 foreign tourists and people visiting our country on personal business (including those invited by relatives and friends) will be forbidden to take certain goods out of the USSR. These are color and black-and-white television sets, domestic refrigerators and freezers, washing and sewing machines, children's clothing and footwear, coffee beans and instant coffee, and caviar and salmon roe. A number of goods will be subject to a customs duty of 20-100 percent of their retail price. This goes, in particular, for certain household appliances—vacuum cleaners, blenders, coffee mills, irons, and so forth. The total value of consumer goods purchased in our stores which a visitor may take out of the USSR is not to exceed R100 in Soviet retail prices.

A. Orlov, director of the USSR Ministry of Trade All-Union Scientific Research Center for the Study of Consumer Demand and Market Conditions, told your correspondent the following:

"Approximate data indicate that more than 250,000 television sets were taken out of the country last year (televisions, incidentally, have recently become the biggest attraction for foreign visitors). They took away slightly fewer fridges, and several hundred thousand electrical consumer appliances—blenders, coffee mills, juice extractors, and so forth crossed the border. The point is that these things are pricey in our neighbors' countries, so they are happy to purchase them in Soviet stores."

However, these goods are also in great demand among Soviet customers. Will the measures taken solve the problem of shortages? T. Koryagina, chief of the USSR Gosplan Economic Scientific Research Institute Department for Social Problems and National Prosperity Forecasting, thinks not.

"If only because it is naive to blame tourists for our economic ills. Nevertheless, I think the decision is a correct one. It is a logical measure to protect our home market, which is far from being in the best possible condition. So as an economist I see some sense in the resolution. Of course, an industrially developed country would not need to make such a decision, but it will be no surprise to anyone if I say that far from everything in our economy is in good order. The limitation on the export of goods may therefore temporarily stabilize the situation to some extent. We will then see precisely what happens. Presumably fewer people in socialist countries will book holidays in the USSR, as happened here when our neighbors introduced similar bans. However, I do not want to draw hasty conclusions. Time will tell."

Reduction in Penalties for Dissent Seen

PM0401115989 [Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian on 29 December 1988 in its Morning Edition carries on page 3 a 3,000-word feature under the rubric "We Discuss the Draft Fundamentals of Criminal Legislation" and the general heading "Human Rights and the Force of the Law." The feature comprises two letters: from S. Alekseyev in Sverdlovsk, a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and director of the Philosophy and Law Institute attached to the Urals branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences; and from G. Padva, a member of the Moscow Lawyers Collegium Presidium, both arguing in favor of abolishing the death penalty. This is followed by an excerpt from a letter written by pensioner V. Shkvorin calling for public hangings.

The second part of the feature, under the subhead "Our Commentary," comprises an interview by Ye. Zhbanov, IZVESTIYA deputy editor responsible for the propaganda, law, and morality department, with Doctor of Juridical Sciences S.G. Kelinaya, leading scientific associate of the USSR Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, on the principles underlying the draft. The interview includes the following passage:

[Zhbanov] "Tell us, then, if it is not a secret: Will any changes be made to those articles which have sometimes been used to punish people for thinking differently by calling this anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda?

[Kelinaya] "There is no secret about it. We have worked on the principle that our socialist state must protect itself, just as any other rule-of-law state in the world protects itself. The question is: What must we protect ourselves against, and how? For example, it is planned to drop Article 190 plus footnotes (I am thinking of the RSFSR Criminal Code), which penalizes people for spreading so-called deliberate fabrications which discredit the Soviet system. I must point out in this respect that all members of the working group are unanimous on this point. With regard to the present Article 70, under which anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda is considered a criminal offense, it will remain in a special section on crimes against the state (naturally, under a different title) and will stipulate responsibility **only for public** appeals for the **violent** overthrow or change of the state system—in other words, for struggle by unconstitutional means. However, even here the sanctions will be considerably lighter. Generally speaking, it is planned to exempt from criminal prosecution several dozen such acts which are still considered criminal at present. In addition to this, all existing sanctions will be revised in favor of mitigation.

"In short, this will be another real step toward a dialectical unity of human rights and the right of the state to demand obedience to the law."

Scholar Urges Pluralism for Social Cohesion

AU0501130889 Rome ANSA in English 1239 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, Jan 5—Political pluralism "without excesses" in the Soviet Union to be developed in the framework of the single-party, which will remain "the factor of cohesion for the Soviet society because of tradition", was discussed here by Soviet scholar Leonid Volkov in an interview given to the Italian Communist Party daily L'UNITA for publication Thursday.

Volkov, now on a visit to Italy, has worked for the past thirty years for the Soviet Academy of Sciences on the documentation of social sciences and is one of the sponsors of the "Club for Democratic Perestroyka".

"The single-party system", he explained, "is a deeply-rooted part of our tradition. "What we are attempting to do now is invent an alternative model of pluralism which will complete and enrich the single party with a quantity of independent social and political organizations".

By way of example, he cited conditions in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, the scene of violent clashes between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, and said that what has been created there is a structure totally independent of Soviet power and one which embraces active and organized participation of the working class.

Volkov said that this model should be extended to other areas in the Soviet Union and to other social spheres and should include the formation of "a genuinely independent trade union, which is is not only a vertical structure but brings in enterprise and professionals".

The scholar also said he could make no secret of the difficulties encountered, in part because of opposition among Kremlin authorities, some of whom maintain that the creation of a state based on rights and bipartisanism is dividing the present party into conservatives and reformers.

He went on to say he had full confidence in leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "He has the right past", he said and added, "and he does not have to hurry. Moves which are

too fast would lead, in fact, to a shift to the right and the replacement of Gorbachev by a totalitarian and nationalist party, one of the fascist type, in fact", he said.

MVD Officials Disciplined for Crimes

PM0501095989 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 88 Second Edition p 2

[Report by Yu. Zhurkin, USSR deputy minister of internal affairs, under the rubric "PRAVDA Wrote. What Has Been Done?": " 'Distorting Mirror'"]

[Text] The USSR MVD reports that the facts set forth in the article entitled "Distorting Mirror" (20 October) about violations of socialist legality during the period 1986-1987, which were expressed in the passing of unsubstantiated resolutions on refusals to institute criminal proceedings with regard to statements and reports from citizens in Kirov, Saratov, Lvov, Crimean, and Karaganda Oblasts, the Latvian, Kirghiz, and Moldavian SSR's, the city of Moscow, and other regions, did take place. Official investigations have been conducted in all these cases, and measures of a disciplinary and party nature have been taken against the guilty persons.

Thus, the following persons mentioned in the article have been released from their posts and been demoted: Aubakirov, deputy chief of Karaganda City's Leninskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department; Chayka, chief of Moscow City's 41st Militia Department; and Melega and Gutsulyak, chiefs of Kishinev City's Sovetskiy and Oktyabrskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Departments. A number of employees have been dismissed from internal affairs organs.

The leaders of the Lvov and Crimean Oblispolkom Internal Affairs Administrations and the Lvov and Kishinev Gorispolkom Internal Affairs Administrations have been severely punished. Ye. Lagoda, former chief of the Lvov Oblispolkom Internal Affairs Administration, who is now working on the central apparatus of the USSR MVD, has been characterized positively. A decision has been made to confine ourselves to an interview with him.

The results of checks conducted by the USSR Prosecutor's Office have been examined at collegium sessions and operational conferences in MVD's and internal affairs administrations, where a principled assessment has been made of the violations exposed and additional measures have been elaborated to strengthen socialist legality.

As a result of enhanced exactingness toward cadres for violations of legality when investigating statements and reports of crimes (their concealment and unsubstantiated refusals to institute criminal proceedings) proceedings were instituted against 1,744 militia workers in the country as a whole during the first 10 months of 1988.

At the same time the USSR MVD believes that the existing system for reacting to statements and reports of crimes committed and also the practice which has evolved for assessing the activity of internal affairs organs on formal indicators do not meet modern demands. Therefore these problems and questions of further strengthening legality will be specially examined at the USSR MVD Collegium.

New TASS Chief Interview on Future Plans

PM0501093589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 2

[Ye. Shestinskiy interview with L.P. Kravchenko, newly appointed general director of TASS, under the rubric "Names and Events" and the heading "TASS General Director"—date and place unspecified; first graf is editorial introduction]

[Text] Leonid Petrovich Kravchenko has been appointed the new general director of TASS. He was born in 1938 in the village of Tureyevka, Bryansk Oblast, to a family of teachers. In 1961 he graduated from the Moscow State University Department of Journalism. His last position was that of first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting. We asked him to answer a few questions.

[Shestinskiy] You have no previous experience of working for an information agency. How familiar are you with their work?

[Kravchenko] Naturally I did not know about the inner "workings" of TASS. But I have had frequent contact with the agency, as I was chief editor of STROITELNAYA GAZETA and then of TRUD. Consequently I am well aware that all the central newspapers, for example, impatiently await official material from TASS so that they can send their issue to press without delay. Unfortunately, even today official information is often late in coming.

I also came up against this problem every day when I worked in the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting. The "Vremya" program has to go out at exactly 2100 hours. It often happened that we had the video film of an official event but were waiting for TASS to send the text. Tension mounted as the moment of going on air drew closer. We had to have time to get the text and arrange it.... We would call TASS.... And now I myself am sitting at the other end of this telephone line and so I am aware of how my colleagues in television await these reports. So I in my turn call the official authorities and ask them to convey information to TASS a little faster.

[Shestinskiy] What are the main difficulties in your new place of work?

[Kravchenko] TASS has now built up a vast information bank. The agency is linked up to the world's major information banks. Broad information flows converge here and so we are faced with the complex process of disseminating this information. For me, as for any new leader, the difficulties lie in thoroughly studying the actual mechanism by which these information flows are formed and checked out. This mechanism is not badly organized but there is always room for improvement. Why are we "shut up within our own four walls"? Why are consumers all over the country not linked up to our information bank?

I ask these questions in bewilderment. After all, it is the mass media first and foremost that must be in touch with what is going on and be in possession of the very latest information. All this is technically feasible with the aid of modern technical facilities, which would link everyone to our information bank. Any journalist would be able to call up information he needed on his own personal computer.

The creation of this kind of all-union system would be a revolution in the mass media. The State Committee for Science and Technology has formulated this task, incidentally. The main problem is the equipment. A considerable amount of hard currency is needed.

[Shestinskiy] Will you be creating new subdivisions within TASS?

[Kravchenko] Yes, I do have plans of that nature. In particular, we intend to strengthen the new audiovisual information service. We also want to organize a main information editorial board for young people that will operate independently. We intend to strengthen the economic and legal service, the Foreign Relations Main Administration, and others.

[Shestinskiy] Do you intend to increase the agency staff?

[Kravchenko] No. The government has established a general scheme for the management of TASS. We will not be getting any extra personnel or funds. All plans must be fulfilled within the limits of our potential. We will be releasing personnel by introducing modern technical systems, modern management methods, and new forms of labor organization.

[Shestinskiy] How have you begun your work in the agency?

[Kravchenko] I have begun by meeting all editorial offices, services, and subdivisions. I suggested that everyone express their own ideas and opinions.... There are still some meetings to come and already my notepad is filled to overflowing with suggestions on all manner of things. We will be studying them properly so that work can be improved while—and I must underline this point—preserving the old system wherever it functions effectively. It is best to let well enough alone.

Zakharov on Stalin Victims Memorial Competition

PM0501095189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 89 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with V. Zakharov, minister of culture, under the rubric "From Competent Sources": "Monument to Victims of Repressions: Competition Has Been Announced"; first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction; date and place of interview not stated]

[Text] The press has published the terms of the all-union open competition for the best plan for a monument to the victims of the lawlessness and repressions which occurred during the years of the personality cult. We asked USSR Minister of Culture V. Zakharov to comment on this document.

[IZVESTIYA] Vasiliy Georgiyevich, the idea of immortalizing the memory of the victims of Stalinism has been widely discussed in the press and on radio and television. A large amount of preparatory work has been performed. And now finally the terms of the competition have been announced...

[Zakharov] The erection in Moscow of a monument to the victims of lawlessness and repressions is our common political and moral duty. After the 19th all-union party conference, at which the question of erecting the monument was unanimously supported, the CPSU Central Committee instructed the USSR Ministry of Culture to elaborate possible versions of an all-union competition to create this monument. Many letters reached the party, state, and public organs. And it is on the basis of studying and comparing different opinions that the USSR Ministry of Culture together with the State Committee for Architecture, the Moscow Gorispolkom, the USSR Academy of Arts, the USSR Artists Union, and the USSR Architects Union, has prepared the program and terms for the competition.

[IZVESTIYA] Will the result not be that the democratic nationwide nature of the movement to create a monument will be somewhat lost at this "official" stage?

[Zakharov] I believe the terms of the competition are entirely democratic and are geared to a broad consideration of public opinion. For instance, the proposed procedure for holding the competition in two rounds itself serves this purpose. At the first round the concept for the monument and the question of the site for its erection will be determined and at the second the winner will be selected from the previously selected 10 best projects.

The democratic, open nature of the taking of decisions is also ensured by the composition of the jury, which will include not only representatives of all the founding organizations but also eminent specialists, masters of art,

and representatives of the public. The competition organizers ask that specific proposals for nominations to the jury be sent to Number 35, Arbat, USSR Ministry of Culture.

The competition jury will attentively study available proposals and the best of them will be presented at an all-union exhibition of competition projects for broad discussion.

I want to note one other important feature of the new competition. The experience of recent years shows that even the most active campaigns do not always, alas, lead to the desired results. You only have to recall the failures with the competition for a Victory monument. Conclusions must be drawn from the lessons we have had and we must avoid two extremes in the future: both excessive bureaucratic organization and uncontrolled spontaneity.

[IZVESTIYA] But what are the possible options for the site for the monument? After all, the attention of many people is now focused particularly on this point...

[Zakharov] Let us recall how many cultural monuments have been barbarically destroyed in Moscow itself! Yet on each occasion the home-grown destroyers found plausible pretexts and cited "weighty arguments." The competition organizers have now firmly decided that any designer, however original and talented, must unfailingly take into account the stipulation that "projects which distort the existing historical environment of the city and suggest demolishing (or moving) historical and cultural monuments are not allowed." That is our principled approach and we will follow it henceforth in discussing any architectural and artistic projects.

[IZVESTIYA] How will expenditure on erecting the monument be covered?

[Zakharov] The state has assumed the main expenditure. Considerable funds collected by the public will also be involved. As early as July 1988 a special account, number 700454, was opened at the USSR Housing and Social Bank [zhilsotsbank]. In all over R0.5 million are already in the monument's account.

Leaders Sign Obituary of Obkom Leader M.S. Khut
PM0401161589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
3 Jan 89 Second Edition p 3

[Obituary of M.S. Khut, first secretary of Adyge CPSU Obkom and USSR Supreme Soviet deputy]

[Excerpts] Malich Salikhovich Khut, first secretary of Adyge CPSU Obkom and USSR Supreme Soviet deputy, died suddenly 1 January 1989 aged 56. [passage omitted]

[Signed] M.S. Gorbachev, L.N. Zaykov, V.K. Ligachev, V.A. Medvedev, V.P. Nikonov, N.N. Slyunkov, V.M. Chebrikov, A.N. Yakovlev, A.I. Lukyanov, G.P. Razumovskiy, O.D. Baklanov, N.Ye. Kruchina, Ye.Z. Razumov, I.K. Polozkov, A.A. Dzharimov, B.G. Kibirev, N.I. Kondratenko, B.P. Krupnenin, N.V. Priz, P.A. Kamagurov, A.S. Kushu, V.V. Mishin, M.S. Tlekhas, G.K. Florinskiy

Economic

Arms Plants Move Into Food Technology
PM0401170189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
3 Jan 89 Morning Edition pp 1, 2

[Interview with I.S. Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, by V. Romanyuk under the rubric "Our Interlocutor": "I.S. Belousov, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers: A Peaceful Vocation for Defense Industry Plants"—no place or date of interview specified]

[Text] [Romanyuk] Igor Sergeyevich, following IZVESTIYA's publication of statements by L. Ryabev, minister of medium machine building, under the headline "Goods To Be Produced by Defense Industry Plants," the editorial office received a letter from Sverdlovsk. Z. Orlov, laboratory chief at the Rubber Industry Scientific Research Institute's branch, writes that, as a rule, machine builders work 3-5 years on the development of new machines to meet the needs of processing industry, and then make a lot of "noise" because they are held back by component suppliers. In his opinion, sound plans may be thwarted if technical targets for the development of components are not formulated simultaneously with targets for the development of the machines themselves.

[Belousov] In the context of the letter by engineer Z. Orlov from Sverdlovsk, I can tell you that over 200 design bureaus dealing with the creation of military equipment are now involved in the development of machine systems for the needs of the agro-industrial complex. They are capable not only of developing the necessary equipment but also of finding ways to reduce the time taken to create it and of accelerating the coordination of component deliveries by related industrial sectors. But it is not all that simple to overcome inertia.

Generally speaking, I must say that the defense industry's involvement in the solution of new tasks, and especially the retooling of production units for processing the output of fields and stock units, is not proceeding as smoothly as we would like.

Surely it is not right when only 65 percent of the processing industry's needs are satisfied? If we single out equipment which really meets the consumers' requirements, it is being produced at only 30 percent of the required volume. Some sectors—like the perfumery, confectionery, and the oil and fats industries—have received either nothing at all from our own Soviet enterprises or only enough to meet 10-15 percent of their needs.

[Romanyuk] What can then be said about leasing collectives, cooperative members, individuals....

[Belousov] The targeted program for the creation and assimilation of the series production of highly efficient technological equipment for processing industry sectors elaborated for the next 8 years—and this, by the way, is the first such program ever drawn up—is geared primarily to kolkhozes and sovkhozes. But some types of equipment could also be suitable for leasing collectives. Like smaller capacity cheeseries, for example. Or modular-design shops that can process 2 tonnes of meat per shift. Attaching special importance to this aspect of the problem, we are boosting sevenfold the volume of research and development work. Over this period as a whole, we have to create 4,500 items of new equipment for the processing industry's needs, of which 3,000 will be created using the defense industry's resources. Furthermore, at least 90 percent of the equipment to be manufactured must be up to world standards by 1995.

A rigid schedule has been laid down, preventing any sizeable time gaps developing between the stages of design, manufacture of prototypes, and series production of articles. I have only just visited a design bureau engaged in the development of new airliners. Work is being done on 7-8 models of new machines for the processing of fruit and vegetable produce....

[Romanyuk] But Z. Orlov goes on to write: "Our organization has a laboratory for rubber products for food industry machine building equipment. It is virtually the only one in the country. But what are they thinking of, those collectives which are creating machine sets? Hurry up, you enterprises under the Ministry of Medium Machine Building, and place your orders!"

[Belousov] Obviously, this question merits specific examination. Why not utilize the potential of the Sverdlovsk laboratory? Here is a fact that is noteworthy by itself: Many design bureaus in the past avoided orders involving the creation of new equipment, but now you can see people going out and looking for work.

Continuing the conversation about the USSR Ministry of Medium Machine Building, I must mention an initiative developed by its enterprises: Not just to manufacture full sets of milk processing equipment but also to create a plan for a miniplant with a capacity of 10 tonnes per shift and to organize the manufacture of units for the initial processing and storage of milk with a capacity of 5 or 10 tonnes per shift and of cheese-making shops with a capacity of 30 or 300 kg per 24 hours. Since it has a sound construction industry base, the USSR Ministry of Medium Machine Building intends to take on the construction of these facilities and hand them over to clients on a "turnkey" basis. This experience will also be applied in other sectors.

[Romanyuk] The defense industry sectors have taken over a few hundred enterprises from the abolished Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances. In all probability, matters will go much further than this somewhat formal act?

[Belousov] Certainly. The solution of the problem was assigned to the defense industry sectors because the tasks are that much greater. The work due to be done in the next 8 years is more than what was done in the last 4 decades: The manufacture of equipment for the processing sectors will increase fourfold. Matters are further complicated by the fact that the material and technical base of the agro-industrial complex was created in a non-comprehensive manner and the development of capacities for the processing of agricultural output permanently lagged behind the growth of production volumes. Hence the excessive losses. For example, we suffer a loss of 1 million tonnes of meat each year. The following figures were cited at the October 1988 meeting in the CPSU Central Committee: Had we, at this moment in time, been in a position to process everything produced by kolkhozes and sovkhozes and safely deliver it to the store counters and the consumers, this would immediately add at least 25 percent more supplies, and even 40 percent for some products.

[Romanyuk] Should we assume that, relying on the mighty technical potential of defense industry plants, we will manage to set in motion this "wagon train" which has got bogged down on the edge of technical progress?

[Belousov] The plans for 1988-1995 include the construction of 29,000 enterprises and the retooling of 38,000 enterprises for the processing of agricultural raw materials. The total volume of deliveries of modern equipment will reach R37 billion, including equipment worth R17.5 billion produced by defense industry sectors.

What has been already undertaken? Some 250 plants in defense industry sectors are involved in solving the problem. Enterprises handed over to the defense industry sectors are being retooled and their specialization is being determined. Some defense industry enterprises which are still under construction are being converted to peaceful purposes while still at the planning stage.

The sectors' product specialization has also been determined. All in all, we have to organize the production of 3,000 new equipment items which make up 36 machine systems for the processing sectors of the USSR Gosagroprom's industry. The Ministry of the Aviation Industry will tackle the creation of machines for five of these systems, including equipment for the processing of fruit and vegetables and the production of starch, syrup, and pasta products, machines for the canning industry, and equipment for the bagging and packaging of dry, free-flowing products. The Ministry of the Aviation Industry intends to produce 43 percent of the total volume of processing equipment at its main plants already by 1989 and to raise this proportion to 65 percent in the future.

The Ministry of the Defense Industry is responsible for units and flow lines for the processing of livestock and poultry, the production of ice cream, and the manufacture of metal containers for the canning industry; the Ministry of Medium Machine Building is responsible for equipment for the processing of milk; the Ministry of General Machine Building is responsible for supplying the bakery, sugar, confectionery, yeast, and oil and fats industries.

Nevertheless, I would not like to give the impression that processing enterprises will be supplied only by defense industry sectors, even though they will shoulder the main load. The Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have set the task on a much broader scale: Machine builders, agro-industrial complex enterprises, and all who can be of real help in this work are involved in the solution of this task. CEMA countries will increase deliveries of some machine types.

It is important to boost not simply the volume of deliveries but also the technical standard of equipment, thus making it possible to apply new waste-free technologies including membrane technologies, and to achieve a more comprehensive processing of raw materials. According to USSR Gosagroprom estimates, the fuller and more comprehensive processing of raw materials could, over a period of 8 years, result in the additional production of various foodstuffs worth almost R40 billion!

[Romanyuk] Defense industry sectors are already being criticized. In particular, a fairly recent USSR Council of Ministers session cited facts of umbrella enterprises in defense industry sectors refusing to conclude contracts for the supply of complete technological lines.

[Belousov] Measures are being taken against such occurrences. There were serious complaints against "Melitopolprodmash," which had refused to conclude contracts for the supply of complete technological lines. The contracts have now been concluded. Justified fears were expressed as regards the thwarting of schedules for the startup of seven production lines for ravioli-type dumplings at the Biryulya meat combine with a total capacity of 100 tonnes of dumplings per 24 hours. This is also being rectified. But instances of incomplete or substandard machines being delivered still occur to this day. Frunze's V.I. Lenin Machine Tool Building Plant shipped to consumers 10 rotary lines for the production of skinless sausages, which proved unreliable in operation. There are long delays in the solution of questions concerning the allocation of the production of lines for the manufacture of ravioli-type dumplings and meatballs among Ministry of Medium Machine Building Enterprises, of certain types of bakery ovens among Ministry of the Shipbuilding Industry enterprises, and of milk storage tanks with a capacity of 50 and 100 cubic meters among Ministry of General Machine Building enterprises.

[Romanyuk] And inordinately high prices have been set in many cases involving lines for which orders have been accepted....

[Belousov] Yes, there were cases involving price hikes. We proceed from the premise that any price increase must be accompanied by enhanced technical standards and improved quality. We will take measures against those who unjustifiably inflate prices. But I must say that quality and technical standards have to be paid for.

We will sort out the prices. What is far more worrying is the lag in the assimilation of new machine types and especially complete equipment packages for the production of children's dry products and dehydrated mashed potatoes, and a number of other units. The program for the creation of equipment for small-capacity bakery enterprises is being implemented only slowly. Meanwhile, 600 complete packages of bakery equipment should be manufactured as early as in 1989, and this number should rise to 1,400 in 1990.

Unfortunately, a lot of time was wasted at the initial stage. To start with, some sector leaders firmly believed: We have taken over a group of enterprises which need help in terms of equipment, advanced technology, cadres, and advice. Yes, 220 enterprises were taken over, but they were not all that large in terms of production volumes, and most of them had poor technical standards. And when the scale of future work became clear to everyone, it was discovered that these enterprises were not capable of performing more than one-third of their plans. The remainder has to be done by defense industry plants. As a matter of fact, the effect of the initial delay can still be felt to this day.

The Ministry of the Aviation Industry, the Ministry of the Defense Industry, and the Ministry of Machine Building are lagging as regards meeting their targets. It must be said that they are being let down by their partners in the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry, the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building, and elsewhere. And yet, the number of new machine types due to be assimilated in 1989 is four times greater than the number planned for 1988.

There is no more time left for prodding. Meanwhile, we have to cope with yet another problem: The solution of questions concerning the accelerated development of capacities is taking a long time in places—at Kiev's food industry machine building plant [pishchemash] which manufactures equipment for the bakery and confectionery industry, Simferopol's V.V. Kuybyshev Machine Building Production Association [prodmash] which makes lines for the manufacture of canning industry containers, and the Kapsukas (Lithuania) plant for the production of food vending machines, which is the country's sole supplier of equipment for the packaging of extrudable and paste food products. And this has a boomerang effect on the population and the satisfaction of people's urgent needs.

[Romanyuk] An IZVESTIYA correspondent who visited the exhibition of technological equipment for the production of foodstuffs, held at the USSR Exhibition of National Economic Achievements, saw a whole series of very useful machines created by defense industry enterprises. But he also noticed something else: They are being produced in very small series.

[Belousov] Defense industry sectors displayed at that exhibition 175 models of equipment for the processing and packaging of output. I think that the exhibition will be of great help to suppliers and consumers alike. For example, there was great interest in a packaging machine. And so, the Ministry of the Aviation Industry now has good reasons to substantially expand the manufacture of such machines. There was also equipment on display which did not generate any special interest. Thought will have to be given to modifying the range so as not to flood the market with equipment that is not needed. As a matter of fact, nobody was particularly worried about this in the past. But now, following the switch to self-financing, the question of marketing becomes especially acute.

[Romanyuk] Should we therefore start thinking about creating a market for means of production for processing sectors, about organizing wholesale trade?

[Belousov] I think that we will inevitably reach this point. To start with, it is necessary to create a permanent exhibition of this type of output where demand and supply could be coordinated and where producers and consumers could do their commercial business. A few days ago I received a request from soviet officials from Stavropol Kray. They ask for help with equipment—the kray produces only small quantities of bakery, pasta, and confectionery products even though it has sufficient raw materials. Well, we will try to help, possibly through above-plan production of the range of machines they need.

[Romanyuk] Nevertheless, we would like to know what consumers could expect in the immediate future?

[Belousov] What we have at the assimilation stage are lines for the production of canned meat and meat and vegetables in lightweight packaging [v oblegchennoy tare iz lamistera], automatic machines for the packaging and wrapping of fancy rusks, rice sticks, fruit pastilles, candy, and potato chips, extruders for the manufacture of dehydrated meals, and automatic lines for the production of butter (using the whisking method). Installations for the continuous cooking of jams and jellies and automated lines for the production of long pasta products with a capacity of up to 1,500 kg per hour are being created under licenses from Western firms. I also ought to mention the equipment which will ensure a more comprehensive processing and will extend the durability of products—lines for the aseptic treatment of semiprocessed fluids and pulps, extractors for the processing of fruit marc, and installations for the manufacture of powdered fruit and vegetables. Once all this equipment is installed in the shops of our processing enterprises, we will be in a position to put greater quantities of more varied products on our tables.

One of the priority avenues on which paramount attention is being focused is the equipment for the wrapping and packaging of dry, free-flowing foodstuffs. The shortage of such facilities results in the annual loss of some 26,000 tonnes of groats, flour, and sugar. An opportunity is now emerging to sharply reduce these losses. Another priority avenue concerns refrigeration equipment (cabinets, display units, counters). The USSR Ministry of the Radio Industry is now tackling the solution of this problem. An enterprise for the production of refrigeration equipment is now being built jointly with the Italian firm "Fata" in the city of Volzhsk, Mari ASSR. It will be commissioned in 1990, and once it reaches its design capacity it will make it possible to virtually double the manufacture of this equipment in the country. That is when we will really feel the effect of properly storing everything that has been grown and promptly processed.

[Romanyuk] Therefore, capitalist firms are also involved in solving the tasks of processing?

[Belousov] "Sovitalprodmash" is the first such machine building enterprise. I think that both we and the foreign firms will have the broadest opportunities to cooperate on a mutually advantageous basis.

[Romanyuk] Igor Sergeyevich, is this conversion of defense industry plants not weakening the country's defense might?

[Belousov] Our defense concept must result in arms deliveries being reduced no further than the level of sensible and reliable sufficiency for the defense of the country and its allies.

Curbs Imposed on Cooperative Activity

PM0401155189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 89 Morning Edition p2

["USSR Council of Ministers 29 December 1988 Resolution on the Regulation of Certain Types of Cooperative Activity in Accordance with the USSR Law 'On the Cooperative System in the USSR'"]

[Text] In accordance with Articles 3 and 54 of the USSR Law "On the Cooperative System in the USSR," regulating possible types of cooperative activity, the USSR Council of Ministers resolves:

1. To establish that cooperatives do not have the right to engage in the types of activity laid down in Appendix No 1.

2. To determine the types of activity that cooperatives have the right to engage in only on the basis of contracts concluded with enterprises, organizations, and institutions, for which these are their main types of activity, as laid down in Appendix No 2. The contracts will stipulate the procedure for implementing the types of activity and the organizational and economic arrangements between cooperatives and enterprises, organizations, and institutions.

The USSR Ministry of Justice, in conjunction with interested ministries and departments, is to prepare within 2 months and submit to the USSR Council of Ministers proposals on the procedure for and ways of monitoring cooperatives' activity on the part of the enterprises, organizations, and institutions with which the cooperatives have contracts to perform their activities and on the responsibility of enterprises, organizations, and institutions for the proper implementation of the established procedure governing arrangements with the cooperatives that have concluded the aforementioned contracts.

3. Soviet ispolkoms are not to permit cooperatives to engage in activities which, in accordance with existing legislation, would result in criminal or administrative liability, or which do not not accord with the objectives and aims of the activity, as stipulated by the cooperative statute. Cooperatives' activities are to be brought into line with this resolution before 1 February 1989.

4. On the basis of local conditions, union republic councils of ministers are to determine, if necessary, other types of activity (aside from those stipulated by the present resolution) which cooperatives have no right to engage in or can only engage in on the basis of contracts concluded with enterprises, organizations, and institutions.

[Signed] N. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and M. Smirtyukov, USSR Council of Ministers administrator of affairs

Appendix No 1 to the USSR Council of Ministers 29 December 1988 Resolution

Types of activity which cooperatives have no right to engage in are:

The manufacture of any type of weapons, ammunition, explosives, or fireworks, as well as the repair of weapons; the teaching of karate and other types of combat for which the permission of the relevant bodies is required; the performance of blast-hole drilling operations;

The manufacture and sale of drugs and offensive and toxic substances;

The sowing, cultivation, and sale of crops containing narcotic, offensive or toxic substances;

The administering of the following types of medical assistance: treatment of cancer patients; treatment of patients with infectious diseases, including venereal and contagious skin diseases; treatment of drug addiction; treatment of mentally ill people whose state of health requires immediate hospitalization; the issuing of findings on people's mental condition; supervision and treatment of pregnant women; invasive methods of investigation and treatment; surgical intervention, including abortion; the conduct of statutory periodical and preliminary checkups and examination of citizens;

The manufacture and sale of medicines;

Activity to establish hygienic environmental norms for chemicals substances;

Wine and vodka production;

The organization and maintenance of gambling establishments and the organization of games of chance and the taking of bets at athletic and other competitions;

The manufacture, buying up, and sale of articles made from precious metals and precious stones or articles in which these materials are used (including the manufacture of dental prostheses from precious metals);

The manufacture and sale of public catering products in unsanitary conditions and the use of food additives prohibited by sanitary norms and rules;

The organization of general education schools;

Publishing activity for the production of works of science, literature, and art;

Making of movies and videos, organization of exchange, sale, renting, and public showing of movies and videos and foreign economic activity associated with this;

The reproduction of movies, films, and programs on video and all activity associated with it;

Servicing of the technical facilities of the unified national automated communications system and of television and sound broadcasting and cabled transmission facilities;

The manufacture of orders and medals and stamps and dies;

The performance of all types of cash transactions involving foreign currency; the taking on commission or acquisition of goods belonging to foreign citizens;

The manufacture and use of registered trademarks and tradenames of Soviet and foreign enterprises and organizations without their permission;

The organization of pawnshops;

The organization and holding of lotteries;

The manufacture and restoration of icons, church plate and articles of religious symbolism and use; the manufacture of candles (apart from decorative ones);

Appendix No 2 to the USSR Council of Ministers 29 December 1988 Resolution

The types of activity which cooperatives have the right to engage in only on the basis of contracts concluded with enterprises, organizations, and institutions, for which these types of activity are the main ones, are:

The manufacture, alteration, and repair of articles made from semiprecious stones or amber or articles using these materials, as well as the alteration and repair of articles made from precious metals and precious stones or articles using such materials;

The procurement and processing of secondary resources and waste materials containing precious metals and precious stones;

Medical assistance (aside from the types of assistance stated in Appendix No 1);

The organization of health and other children's, adolescents', and young people's camps;

The manufacture of perfumes, cosmetics, and household chemicals;

The rendering of editorial and publishing services to organizations authorized to engage in publishing activity, including reproduction of printed matter and publication of publicity and information materials; printing of forms, labels, menus, instructions, and stationery;

The organization and conduct of paid concerts, discotheques, creative meetings, and entertainment programs;

The manufacture of duplicating and copying equipment;

The production, reproduction, and sale of phonograph records, tape recordings, and other types of recording; sale of printed matter;

Lecturing activity;

Assistance in organizing foreign tourism.

Scientific

'Mir' Cosmonauts Conduct Astronomical Observations

LD0401144189 Moscow TASS in English 1418 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Moscow January 4 TASS—Experiments with the use of the Glazar ultra-violet telescope are planned for today at the Soviet long-duration orbital complex Mir. Individual areas of the celestial sphere in the greater dog constellation were chosen as objects of survey.

Cosmonauts Aleksandr Volkov, Sergey Krikalev and Valeriy Polyakov will engage in astronomic observations for some time.

The mission commander and flight engineer have been in orbit for the second month and Doctor Valeriy Polyakov has been staying in orbit for the fifth month. Volkov and Krikalev took the place of Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov who had worked in weightless conditions for a year and returned to earth recently, following a record-long stay in orbit.

A TASS correspondent has been told at the mission control centre that the endurance record holders now undergo post- flight examination and a cycle of restorative therapy. An estimate by medical specialists is that their readaptation is proceeding normally. To French cosmonaut Jean-Loup Chretien this process is practically over and he feels fine after his second flight among the Soviet-French crew. [passage omitted]

'Buran' Space Shuttle Described by Engineer

AU0401165889 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 3 Jan 89 p 5

[Report on "Buran" space shuttle, including interview with Engineer Aleksandr Nikitin in Baykonur, by RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent Atanas Atanasov: "Forefather of the Generation of Soviet Space Shuttles"—date of interview not given]

[Excerpts] Baykonur, Moscow (from RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent Atanas Atanasov)—The building is located in Baykonur. I found myself there thanks to the growing openness and glasnost, which is reducing more and more the numbers of "closed" zones on Soviet territory. As for Baykonur—the launching site for piloted spacecraft and interplanetary stations, foreign journalists have visited it for a long time on two sorts of occasion. First, when spaceships with international crews are launched from there, and second, when these ships land in the Kazakhstan steppe after completing their missions.

...From the outside, the building reveals nothing about its special purpose. From the viewpoint of size and architecture, it lies between an administrative building and an industrial plant. However, when one is inside, its spaciousness in both vertical and horizontal directions is

truly impressive. Its total area is 72,000 square meters. Artificial lighting and special air conditioning installations create an environment in which you have the feeling of being in bright sunlight in the open air. Everyone wears white overalls. Four "Buran" shuttles—two prototypes and two being assembled—stand in the four separate sections of the building. [passage omitted]

[Atanasov] What aspect of the technical specifications of this spacecraft represents a qualitatively new contribution by scientists, designers, and engineers?

"Naturally, 'Buran's' electronic brain," Engineer Aleksandr Nikitin immediately replied. "Its high content of the latest electronic and automated equipment enables it, after two orbits in space, to assume the functions of a jet aircraft and make an automatic landing with incredible accuracy on a specially constructed runway in Baykonur. Please note that this is the world's first pilotless landing of a 'space shuttle' returning from its flight."

The space shuttle's heat-insulating "chain armor" is a supreme achievement in its design, Engineer Nikitin explained. On its return flight from space, the huge "Buran" craft passes through a "plasma fire" created by its high velocity and atmospheric friction that causes its temperature to rise to over 1500 degrees, which no metal can withstand. The scientists and engineers have discovered the required type of alloy, which is unlike anything previously used in world practice.

The material used consists of comparatively light tiles, reminiscent of foam plastic. Almost 2 years of research and experiments were needed to develop the reliable technology for determining the geometry of the tiles and for securing them in place with adhesive, to conform to the aerodynamic surface of the craft. Another curious fact is that the shape of each of the 38,000 tiles and the accuracy with which they were fixed in place have been determined and verified by computer, in accordance with their performance specifications, as soon as they appeared in the computer program. [passage omitted]

[Atanasov] What are the possibilities for using the advanced scientific and technical projects developed for space purposes in the various fields of the economy?

"The opportunities are immense and inexhaustible," the Soviet scientist replied. "Their use in the country's everyday life can bring billions of rubles in income, far exceeding the expenditure on space research.

"For example, the unique independent miniature computer for controlling the space shuttle [kosmolet] can be used in civil aviation, nuclear engineering, and so on. The experience in this sphere, gained by experiment and tested in practice, can be applied not only in the engineering branches. As a matter of fact, the majority of the space technologies, equipment, computer programs, materials, etc., are suitable for mass use to great economic effect in all spheres of the economy. The potential gain from such costly experiments as 'Energiya—Buran' is obtained precisely from utilizing these possibilities."

Ignalina Reactor's Future Discussed, Opposed

LD0401144889 Vilnius in Lithuanian to North America 0100 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Summary] The future of the third reactor at the Ignalina AES was discussed by five working governmental commission groups set up in Moscow at the demand of the Lithuanian SSR Government. The governmental commission consists of leading Soviet nuclear specialists and representatives of departments involved.

The commission was set up last September by the USSR Council of Ministers.

The following issues were investigated: seismological conditions in the third power unit construction area, engineering and hydrogeology, water supply, and the influence on the environment.

Julius Sabaliauskas, deputy chairman of the State committee for Environmental Protection, commented on the work carried out by the commission and said that two working groups were clearly against the continuation of the construction of the third reactor without additional investigation and research which would last more than a year and three other groups were of the opinion that the construction could go on provided that some corrections were made to the design.

However, the group from the republic taking part in the conference decided that a republican variant of conclusions should be prepared based on the materials produced by the commission's working groups in an attempt to formulate such conclusions which would be most correct according to Lithuanian specialists.

This was done practically during a 24-hour period and Academician Vilimas, specialist in nuclear power engineering, and Professor Juodkazis, specialist in geology, went to see Academician Frolov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences and chairman of the commission, to present the republican opinion on the matter.

After two meetings with the academician and meetings with a number of members of the commission who supported the republican document, Academician Frolov signed the republican protocol after insignificant changes were introduced.

Now Academician Frolov has informed the USSR Council of Ministers that the commission had completed its work and that in the nearest future the protocol would be submitted to the USSR Council of Ministers.

The main conclusion is that the construction of the third power unit at the Ignalina AES should not be continued. The commission proposes that the present capacity of the AES be maintained while research work, which should have been carried out before the design work of the AES had started, is carried out.

The republican authorities should watch carefully for the issue of the Ignalina AES to come up on the agenda of the USSR Council of Ministers for discussion and take firmly the position adopted some time ago, so that the resolution adopted will be acceptable to the republic.

The resolution could be different since about one third of the commission members did not sign the document prepared by the scientists of the republic and are categorically against the opinion voiced by the Lithuanian scientists.

For the first time in the 8-year-long argument between specialists from Lithuania and the designers of the AES it has been pointed out in the resolutions adopted by the commission that if the the third power unit is constructed and put into operation there would be a shortage of water for cooling the reactor. The amount needed would be 14 million cubic meters.

The final decision could be also influenced by the international commission of experts which had been invited by the Soviet Government.

Military

Kulikov Addresses Central Group of Forces Meeting

PM0401113489 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Dec 88 First Edition p 2

[Report by own correspondent Colonel P. Chernenko under the general heading: "Party Conferences"]

[Text] The Central Group of Forces party conference has discussed questions of further stepping up the influence of political organs and party organizations on restructuring processes, enhancing the qualitative parameters of combat readiness, and tightening up organization and discipline. Reports were delivered by Lieutenant General V. Grebenyuk, member of the Military Council and chief of the Group Political Directorate, and Colonel P. Grigorenko, secretary of the Political Directorate's party commission.

The conference was addressed by Marshal of the Soviet Union V. Kulikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR first deputy defense minister, and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces.

V. Lomakin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR ambassador to the CSSR, took part in the conference's work.

Far East Military District Holds Party Conference

PM0401143589 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Dec 88 First Edition p 2

[Report by own correspondent Colonel B. Karpov under the general heading: "Party Conferences"]

[Text] The Far Eastern Military District party conference heard reports from Lieutenant General A. Voronin, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Directorate of the Far Eastern Military District, and Colonel Yu. Belyakov, secretary of the Political Directorate party commission. The reports and speeches by delegates analyzed the progress of restructuring and constructively criticized shortcomings and omissions.

The conference was addressed by Admiral of the Fleet A. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, and L. Sharin, first secretary of the Amur CPSU Obkom.

N. Batarchuk, senior official of the CPSU Central Committee, and V. Pasternak, first secretary of the Khabarovsk CPSU Kraykom, took part in the conference's work.

Statement of Military Expenditures Urged

PM0401162589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 89 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by Stanislav Kondrashov under the rubric "Political Observer's Opinion": "Finding Out About Ourselves"]

[Text] Soviet foreign policy has been inundated with praise from virtually the whole world. Last year it disarmed many skeptics and inspired even more those who linked their main hopes for the favorable course of world events with the successful progress of restructuring in the Soviet Union. The praise is merited. And there's no denying we like praise. That is a long-standing weakness. And long-standing food for international affairs journalists. We could now limit ourselves to this praise—so abundant is it and so tempting not only to look at but even to taste. But...

But by limiting themselves to the praise of others, praise which merges into boasting about themselves, international affairs journalists would be descending to the methods—and baseness—of the time of stagnation, betraying the spirit of restructuring which demands that we go forward, go deep, and go further. We must speak of the unresolved tasks—our people need a fundamentally different level of information, especially on those dominant salients of foreign policy where it is interwoven with questions of military building. In other words we need a qualitatively new level of glasnost (and truth!) in the military field. Without it we cannot count on stable trust in our policy in the surrounding world. Without it, which is even more important, there would be no possibility of

serious public discussion within our country on the expediency and priorities in state expenditure, on what proportion of this expenditure we can allow ourselves for building and maintaining the armed forces, and on the line which must not be crossed in this respect. Because beyond this line begins the process of the country's economic exhaustion and destruction and damage to national security, which is protected by no means merely by the might of the armed forces but also by the overall power of the state and society, the orderliness and balance of the economy, and the standard and quality of life of the people, on which the strength of their patriotism also directly depends. These are all fundamental questions. They are being urgently put on the agenda by the course of political reform. Without their discussion the work of the new Supreme Soviet elected in the spring, which must, not for the sake of form but in earnest, be invested with full powers of control over the powers' executive organs, is inconceivable.

To illustrate the degree of concealment which still remains I shall cite what are in my view two striking examples. One of them is contained in the words of E.A. Shevardnadze. In an interview describing a recent meeting of the aktiv of Foreign Ministry workers, the foreign minister recalled that 2 years have elapsed since the readiness to make public our state budget was announced (that is to make public military expenditures and not only the Defense Ministry budget announced in the press—S.K.). The projected deadline is approaching," the minister said. "We should provide information on what has already been done in this field and what still has to be done." What is preventing them? The minister was rather evasive in his explanation of the specific complication. But in a general way he noted the "stagnation-era vice" which arose at the time when the distance between word and deed was enormous and in no way wanted to be reduced." He said: "This vice is the 'practical workers' sometimes placid attitude toward statements at top level: Statements are all very well, they say, but as for fulfilling what has been announced—we'll see what happens..."

I recall that a commitment to make public our real total military expenditure was made by the Soviet leadership in 1987 to the world community, at the UN General Assembly. Its fulfillment is connected with calculations complicated by the intricate and in many respects criminal system of price formation, with the scattering of orders for arms round a minimum of 15 ministries. And perhaps to a decisive degree it is connected with the fact that no one has seriously calculated what this could cost by proceeding even in peace time from a principle doubtful even in war: We shall not be stinting! It is not from Soviet but from U.S. publications, from the words of U.S. Defense Secretary F. Carlucci, that we can hear that during a visit to the United States a very eminent Soviet Soviet military leader admitted that even he did not know the USSR's genuine military expenditure. And I think that was the real truth and not an attempt to protect a military secret. Can there be any more eloquent illustration of how the "housekeeping" was managed—and still is managed—in our fatherland? In the absence of real data, for many years when meeting foreign colleagues Soviet experts tried to prove that the R20 billion of our declared military expenditure could entirely ensure parity with the $300 billion released for the Pentagon. In the absence of real data, people abroad, without any "help" from us, excelled in trying to estimate what percentage of the Soviet GNP—twice as much or four times as much as the American 6-7 percent—is eaten up by the military budget.

My opinions and bewilderment are not new. Similar views can be encountered in our press. But I am not afraid of repeating myself. We must hit this spot again and again. This spot and this wall which, as E.A. Shevardnadze's words attest, is hard to break through. We have no right to speak of the victory of the new thinking until this wall has been broken through, until we have overturned this pillar of old and backward thinking—irrational obsession with secrecy, whose reverse side is lack of control and lack of accountability to one's own people. Yes, that is what is under discussion, that holy of holies of the bureaucratic administrative-edict system. The commitment to proclaim the true size of military expenditure was not only made to the world community. It should be a commitment primarily to our people. If they are indeed the masters of this land, if we want to assert the people as the true owners, there is no doubt of their right to check how the economy is being managed through their fully empowered and properly elected representatives. To check where the wealth they have worked to make is going, to check on the real expenditure for one of the largest items. This would be an elementary and at the same time great victory for developing democracy—and ordinary common sense.

The same premise also fully applies to the second example which prompted me to write these notes. In the field of practical affairs attesting to fundamental changes in our foreign and military policy the half-million strong reduction in the numerical strength of the USSR Armed Forces announced by M.S. Gorbachev from the UN rostrum can, in terms of its boldness and importance and the impression it made on the world, only be compared with one thing—the Soviet agreement to the "zero option" regarding medium-range missiles and, moreover, the promotion of the "zero-zero" option which extended the accord with the United States to shorter-range missiles. The weight and conviction of the new unilateral measures is recognized by nearly all serious objective politicians and military figures.

But here again is that selfsame aspect which undermines the thoroughness of the analysis of these measures in the Soviet press and prevents their propaganda—propaganda in the good sense. We do not know the total numerical strength of our armed forces although in the West, in the United States, the numerical strength of national armed forces is announced regularly—down to the last man—and in China, for instance, it is also known. We do not know what proportion of the total

number of our tanks is made up of the 10,000 tanks which are being cut back and how many Soviet armored divisions will remain in East Europe after six of them have been withdrawn. We do not know, and they do know, albeit only approximately, but this is an approximation which, as former experience shows, comes close to accuracy. And here we journalists and political scientists are continuing shamefully to bypass this aspect in our comparative analysis of our truly important deed while the other side—Western journalists and expert scholars—are overemphasizing this aspect, praising the Soviet Union but at the same time stressing that the Warsaw pact's superiority over NATO in terms of armed forces and conventional arms in the EUropean theater remains. And Colonel General V.N. Lobov, first deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces general staff, resorts to that paradoxical system of formulas which is still considered justified: "Even according to Western estimates the reductions will be about 10 percent of the total potential of our armed forces." Even according to Western estimates? But according to ours? More or less? The same? V.N. Lobov avoids a direct reply.

People may say to me: You are knocking at an open door, we already recognize these problems. I shall reply that merely recognizing their existence is not enough. Until they are resolved the door remains closed. This restrains trust in us in the outside world and, I repeat, the main thing is that it prevents the rational management of affairs in the country, the rational mobilization of forces and resources for restructuring.

There are gratifying reports that major advances in this field are no longer far away. May god grant that to be the case. On the threshold of our new parliament we must again prepare the social ground on which there could be formed and could arise fully empowered representatives of the people, representatives of a new type with the knowledge and ability to ask, representatives who would finally be able to implement Lenin's wish about people, who would not take a word on trust, and who by virtue of their responsibility to the people will demand a precise account and full information in everything. We must finally find out about ourselves, know ourselves.